

**Sorry, this lobby is closed...**  
Community leaders dismayed as  
LIFE Lobby closes its doors this week.  
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**Needle update:**  
Protestors, Congress react  
to needle exchange plan.  
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A.C.T. class gears straights,  
gays for playing gay roles.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 18 • 30 April 1998

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## Buss break

Bagdad Cafe Mural Project volunteers Johnnie Carter and Becca Schwartz take some time out for a lip lock April 25. The two were helping to paint the "Hope for the World Cure" mural on the 16th Street side of the cafe near Market. This public art piece is designed to reflect the impact AIDS has had on all people, especially the queer community.



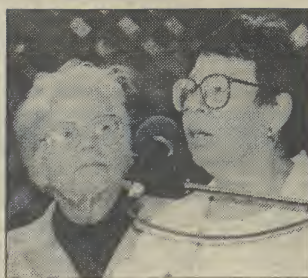
Jane Philomen Cliland

## Lesbian and gay elders conference this weekend

by Liz Highleyman

On May 1-2, gay and lesbians elders, care providers, researchers, and activists will gather in New York City for the first national conference on aging in the gay and lesbian community. Entitled "Gays and Lesbians Growing Older — Expanding the Family Portrait," the conference is sponsored by Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) and will be held at Fordham University.

The conference will address a full range of issues affecting older lesbians and gay men, including discrimination against gays and lesbians in healthcare settings and housing; rejection and neglect of elders within the gay and lesbian community; legal and public policy issues; and spirituality. According to SAGE Executive Director Terry Kaelber, "The debates about aging, ageism, and age-phobia are really heating up in the lesbian and gay



Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon

community and there is a deep need to confront the unequal treatment older gay people face in the mainstream."

The event's keynotes speakers will be Dr. Robert Butler and Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.

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## SFAF's Gay Life: a new route to prevention

by Mark Mardon

One are the safer-sex slogans. Done away with are the posters featuring hunky naked men "dressed for the occasion." Fast fading into history are the messages with "be here for the cure" simplicity. Even glowingly patriotic "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" plugs for young queer men to use condoms are nowhere to be found in the new age of HIV prevention being crafted by the nation's third-largest AIDS service organization.

Welcome, instead, to Gay Life, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's newfangled, all-encompassing, more up-to-date approach to stopping the spread of HIV. It's a warm, cuddly, yet earnest program aimed at providing "safe spaces" for gay men to connect with their brothers, create a sense of community, build up self esteem, and generally "navigate the complexities of gay life in San Francisco."

Where one of SFAF's early (1986) slogans read "AIDS, It's What You Do, Not Who You Are," the new catch phrase — if anyone at SFAF were inclined to devise one (which they aren't) — could well be: "AIDS, It's How You Feel About Yourself, Not What You Do."

Though perhaps less sexy and titillating than the old "you can have fun (and be safe,

page 23 ►



SFAF's Rene Durazz

## Brian Cheu leaves HRC New director at LYRIC

by Cynthia Laird

Longtime gay activist Brian Cheu has been hired as the new executive director of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), the only full-service community center serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in San Francisco.

LYRIC, established in 1988, provides an array of services for young people. As executive director, Cheu will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the organization, which provides a safe and supportive space for LGBTQ youth to meet and participate in leadership, recreational, and educational activities by and for young people. The agency provides social and recreational activities, health information, educational opportunities, and most importantly, peer support for young people.

"This is my ideal job," said Cheu. "I am looking forward to improving the services available here in San Francisco to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth, and feel very fortunate to be given this opportunity to work with an agency as committed as LYRIC to offer these services in a peer-based model."

He said that LYRIC's current annual budget is approximately \$700,000; his annual salary is \$52,000.

Currently, LYRIC offers an after school program, the youth talkline, a young women's program, a young men's HIV prevention and education program, the leadership project, the job training program, the youth speakers

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## Reentry mode



New College of California HIV/AIDS Reentry and Empowerment Project members pose for the camera April 18 after Reentry Project Director Bill Hershon had presented Supe Tom Ammiano and Dr. Robert S. Perkins with certificates recognizing their continued support of the organization. The project is dedicated to providing services and opportunities for all those affected by HIV disease. Applications for all programs commencing in the fall are currently being accepted. Call 415-241-1356 for more information.

## GAPA scholarship applications available

by Cynthia Laird

Societal pressures coupled with feelings of isolation can conspire to keep lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Asian and Pacific Islander youth from achieving their full potential. Recognizing these forces, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) has established the GAPA/George Choy Memorial Scholarship to help youth have a greater opportunity to succeed. By offering the scholarship, GAPA hopes to nurture and support people who can serve as role models for others in the community.

The application deadline is Monday, June 1 and a maximum \$200 will be granted this year. GAPA has plans, however, to raise funds for a \$20,000 endowment by the year 2000, with the goal of providing a scholarship of \$1,000 annually. The scholarship is being offered through the Horizons Foundation, a grant making community foundation dedicated to improving the human services and quality of life for the queer community.

The GAPA scholarship is intended for students entering their first year of post-secondary education. Students of Asian/Pacific Islander descent from nine Bay Area counties, including San

Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Sonoma, and Solano, are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, but all students meeting the qualifications are welcome to apply if they can show they are supportive of the queer community.

"This scholarship will serve a need in the community for deserving youth who might require financial aid or who have served their community and never been recognized," said David Yau, chair of GAPA's scholarship committee. "As with all scholarships, it also imparts increased self-worth and honor to its recipients."

The scholarship is named in honor of Choy, an ardent activist who spoke out for queer Asians and Pacific Islanders, driven by the belief that gay people are all part of the family too. "George played a crucial role in creating a safe environment for members of our community," said Donald Masuda, GAPA board member. "He was a passionate fighter, whose will and determination served as an inspiration to so many around him." Choy, who died in 1993, was especially vocal in support of queer youth. He fought for Project 10, the counsel-

ing program for queer teenagers now in effect in San Francisco's public schools.

"The scholarship is an ideal opportunity to set our sights on the bigger picture and look towards the broader community," said co-chair Eric Herbas. "By fostering leadership, community building, and philanthropy, GAPA reaches out and stakes a claim on the future."

The scholarship is one of the many projects GAPA is working on as it celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. GAPA is a community-based organization that fosters awareness, developing a positive identity and establishing a supportive community for gay and bisexual Asians and Pacific Islanders. The organization is accepting tax-deductible contributions for the scholarship fund. ▼

For scholarship applications and requirements, call (415) 282-GAPA or e-mail: gapa@slip.net. People can also call the Horizons Foundation at (415) 398-2333 or e-mail: horizonsfd@aol.com. Donations to the fund should be made out to the Horizons Foundation and sent to GAPA, P.O. Box 421884, San Francisco, CA 94142-1884.

## NGPA offers pilot scholarship to queers

by Eric M. Rose

The National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA) has launched a new scholarship program for member of the gay and lesbian community seeking a career as a pilot. Two scholarships, both for \$1,500, will be awarded by September 1, 1998 and can be used to pay tuition or flight training costs incurred by student pilots enrolled at a college or university offering an accredited aviation curriculum, such as air science, aerospace, aerodynamics, engineering, or airport management. Scholarships can also be applied toward the flight training costs incurred in a professional pilot training program at any training facility certified by the FAA.

"Piloting is one of the last

strongholds of homophobia," said Ron Swanda, NGPA executive director. "And the best way to change that sad fact is to bring more gays and lesbians into this career field. Many NGPA members have found great satisfaction in their choice of piloting as a career, and they want to encourage other gays and lesbians to do the same."

Incorporated in 1994, the NGPA is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization whose goals are to encourage gays and lesbians to being piloting careers; provide an affirming social and professional network; promote aviation safety; and foster equal treatment of gay and lesbian pilots. The NGPA is headquartered in Washington DC with an active membership of over 500 pilots from nearly every state and seven other countries. Membership, however, is open to

anyone, including non-pilots and aviation aficionados.

Funds have already been secured for this year's scholarships, and funds are in-hand to ensure future scholarship awards as well. However, the NGPA is seeking additional donations to increase the amount and number of the annual education fund through their 501(c)(3) tax-deductible status. ▼

The application deadline for the scholarship program is July 31, 1998. For application forms and more information on the scholarship, write to: NGPA-EF, P.O. Box 2010-324, South Burlington, VT 05407-2010. For membership information, or information on making a tax-deductible donation, call (703) 660-3852, or visit their website at WWW.NGPA.ORG.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Supe's on: Leno joins board

by Cynthia Laird

Hundreds of supporters filled the Herbst Theatre last Wednesday, April 22 for the swearing in of new San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno; the gay, Jewish, small business owner pledged to work on a number of issues between now and November, when he will face voters to keep his seat on the board. Leno was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown to fill the seat vacated by Susan Leal, the Latina lesbian who was elected city treasurer.

Leal quipped that Leno is not a Latina lesbian, however, she praised his appointment to the board. "I truly believe your constituency will know no bounds. This lesbian Latina is proud to have you as a representative on the board," said Leal.

Political leaders from the city were on hand, including just about every supervisor, and Assemblymembers Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley. Migden, who Leno has called his mentor, also had praise for his work in various community activities. "The first thing you see is his goodness and his sincerity. He is



Mayor Willie Brown swears in Supe Leno at Herbst Theatre April 22.

a true leader in San Francisco and a person who many organizations depend on," said Migden.

The mayor half-joked that Leno should enjoy the day of praise. "On Monday, after the first vote, it's over," said the mayor, referring to Leno's first board meeting that was April 27.

After taking the oath of office, which was administered by Brown, Leno gave a short speech that described his background and some of the initiatives he hopes to work on as a supervisor.

"Quality of life issues dear to me as a private citizen — public health and safety, housing and the homeless, small business concerns, as well as the planting of trees, revital-

ization of our parks and the respect of and access to our treasured cultural institutions, will now be the focus of my public work," said Leno. "With limited financial and human resources, every concern attracts multiple proposals...I am certain that we can only address these very difficult issues with fairness if we proceed with concern for the greater good.

"My hope and intent is to play an effective role in the deliberation of these issues, to be a positive force that brings together varying points of view. Let us all accept the challenge to broaden our perspectives and aim for that which is best for San Francisco," Leno said. ▼

## AIDS housing project gets \$1 million HOPWA loan

by Cynthia Laird

A controversial HIV/AIDS housing project for very low-income women and their children in the Western Addition was narrowly approved for a loan by the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission, following hours of public testimony on Tuesday, April 28. The often-contentious meeting pitted neighbors against each other during the debate but supporters of the project easily outnumbered opponents; in the end, commissioners voted 4 to 3, approving a Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) loan in the amount of \$1,070,911.

Commissioner Mark Dunlop, an openly gay man with AIDS, amended the loan package to include a provision that Catholic Charities, the planned service provider for the seven-unit apartment site located at 1652 Eddy Street, partner with an agency located in the Western Addition to provide services. The project is being developed by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC), a nonprofit agency. In addition to serving the seven families who will live on site, the Pos-

itive MATCH (Mothers And Their Children with HIV/AIDS) Family Housing program plans to provide intensive services for another 36 families who live off site, helping a total of 43 families.

Just about all of those speaking out against the project said they recognized the need for HIV/AIDS housing, however, they maintained the community did not receive adequate notice from redevelopment agency staff, nor were they involved in the planning process with Catholic Charities and BHNC.

San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown strongly opposed the project and attempted to get Commission President Lynette Sweet to give him more time to speak because of his position as a city supervisor. Sweet declined and enforced the three-minute-per-person time limit for speakers.

"It pains me to stand here again and witness the community [opposed to the project] crying out like lambs to be respected," said Brown, pastor at the large Third Baptist Church in the Western Addition. "No one from Catholic Charities spoke to me... I think this noble end is crippled... Seven people is a drop in the bucket."

That was eloquently countered

by neighbor Dorothy Goldstone's remark, "The bucket is empty and we'd welcome a drop of any size."

Numerous women living with HIV and AIDS who reside in the Western Addition also spoke in support of the proposal. The project would be the first of its kind in San Francisco and has received \$600,000 in federal grants. Total development cost for the project is estimated at \$1.7 million, roughly \$76,000 per bed, which Dunlop said is in line with similar projects.

Commissioner LeRoy King, one of those who voted against awarding BHNC the 30-year loan, said, "I'm not against AIDS. Tonight, here, is very disturbing." He questioned whether agency staff had adequately provided information to the community. Two votes to postpone the loan request were defeated by commissioners.

Dunlop acknowledged that more could have been done by Catholic Charities. "I wish they'd done a little better job with the community," Dunlop told the B.A.R. "Now they will be in full partnership [with an agency in the Western Addition]."

Sweet cut right to the point before casting her vote, "I don't think we heard 'No.' We need the housing." ▼

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# Dignity goes silver

by Shan Schwartz

The Catholic Church has changed a great deal in the last quarter of a century, but Dignity S.F., the city's gay Catholic organization, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with the view that its work is far from over.

The group is celebrating its heritage with events throughout the year and is looking forward to continued effort to raise awareness and effect change in Church theology to be more understanding and inclusive of its gay and lesbian members.

Anniversary activities kicked off with a brunch on February 1, a thanksgiving liturgy and founders' reception on April 19, and a dinner dance on Saturday, April 25.

Gino Ramos, current co-chair of Dignity SF, told the B.A.R. that special anniversary events will continue through the year. The group is working on a float to herald its anniversary in the June Pride Parade. Plans are also under way for a July "pilgrimage tour" trolley ride through San Francisco to visit all the places Dignity has called home over the years. Later in the year, the group is planning a sort of "homecoming" event, Ramos said.

It all started back in the early '70s, when the gay rights movement was still in its infancy and the Catholic Church was still very much in denial of its gay and lesbian members. Dignity S.F.'s first meeting was on January 21, 1973, according to Tom Fry, a former diocesan priest and one of the group's founders.

At that time, Fry said, he had left the priesthood but continued spending time in the Church making speeches and providing referrals to gay Catholics.

"Of course I knew a lot of priests," Fry said, "and they supported me in my ministry to the gay community."

There were a few other Dignity chapters across the country at that time, Fry said, including groups in San Diego and Los Angeles. Father David McBriar, a priest in San Francisco, approached Fry and asked if he'd be interested in forming a Dignity group in the city.

The group first met at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Mission Street, and moved between several other churches until 1991, when the Vatican made an order to ban Dignity from holding any events or meetings on Church property. At that point, it started meeting in other churches in the city and currently has its home at the Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church.

The Vatican's ejection of Dignity was a severe blow, Fry said. "Our membership went from over 300 down to about 160," he said. "A lot of men started going to Most Holy Redeemer."

Most Holy Redeemer Church,

near the heart of The Castro at 18th and Diamond streets, is a traditional Catholic Church whose parishioners, nowadays, are predominantly gay and lesbian. Yet as a Catholic church, it still must adhere to orders from the San Francisco Archdiocese and from the Vatican in Rome.

Fry said that Holy Redeemer Parish is now a model nationwide for Catholic churches sitting in predominantly gay neighborhoods. Yet there are still differences between what those churches can do and what Dignity can do.

"Dignity is certainly more open to challenge Church doctrine and theology," Fry said. "We believe that we can have ethically acceptable sexual lives as gay or lesbian people and as Christians."

Fry said that in addition to its advocacy and despite its ejection from the Church, Dignity S.F. has really played a supportive role for churches in the Bay Area.

"I think we play a prophetic role," Fry said. "We've sent several hundred people to [become members at] Most Holy Redeemer. After being angry or alienated from the Church, they first got involved with Dignity, then went on to Holy Redeemer."

"Dignity has had a tremendous ripple effect, which is every bit as significant as our survival from 1991," Fry said.

Other parishes in the city, as well, have gatherings or social groups for gay and lesbian parishioners or ministries to people with HIV and AIDS, Fry said.

"And we have certainly encouraged that," Fry said.

Dignity S.F. helped bring about changes from within the Church in its 25 years, Fry said, including an

Archdiocesan report in the mid-'80s addressing gay and lesbian issues. And last year, the American Catholic bishops released a statement urging Catholic parents to love their gay and lesbian children. But despite these gains, Fry said much remains to be done.

"The church is still nowhere near where it should be," Fry said. "Even in the U.S., they have to constantly look over their shoulder all the time toward the Vatican."

"But the Bay Area would be much worse off without the hundreds of people who have had influence on their friends, families, pastors and fellow parishioners. Holy Redeemer wouldn't exist as it does today if not for the pioneering efforts made by Dignity members."

Ramos echoed Fry's views about the need for continued work in the Church.

"There are still many challenges for us, even though there are parishes more welcoming of gays," Ramos said. "We don't want a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy in the church. We want gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to be 'out' in their churches and be respected for it. Our goal is to provide support for the gay and lesbian Catholics, so they can be themselves in their parishes."

"The ultimate goal is for all of us to be back with Catholic Church as normal, full members who aren't discriminated against or looked down upon because we're gay," Ramos said. "But until that time, we will continue to exist for those who need our support." ▼

For more information about Dignity SF, call the group's office at (415) 681-2491.

## Catholics to hold retreat for families of gays Sunday

by Eric M. Rose

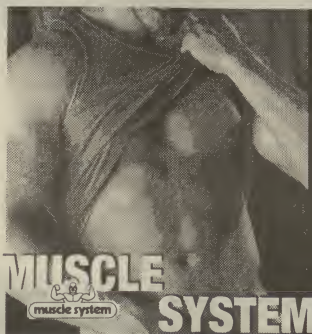
The Diocese of Oakland's Family Life Office and Catholic Charities of the East Bay's Task Force for Outreach to Gay and Lesbian Communities and Their Families are sponsoring a retreat for parents and families of gays and lesbians this Sunday, May 3.

The retreat, with the theme "God's Gift to You," will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the San Damiano Retreat House in Danville. The event will consist of prayer; reflections offered by parents, family members, and gay and lesbian children; small group support; and a closing Eucharist.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is the largest provider of human services in Alameda and

Contra Costa Counties. Its professional staff works with volunteers to administer a variety of programs in counseling; employment, training, and education; community and parish social ministry; and housing and emergency services. Catholic Charities works in partnership with local parishes and other community-based agencies. ▼

To register for the daylong retreat or for more information, call Rita Billici at the Diocese of Oakland at (510) 680-8510 ext. 201; or Fr. Jim Schexnayder of Catholic Charities at (510) 834-5657, ext. 3188. There is a \$35 registration fee that covers retreat materials and lunch.



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# Supes likely to OK queer youth task force

by Cynthia Laird

In an effort to make sure city departments address the needs of queer youth, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is poised to establish a task force that would be charged with investigating how those departments have implemented or plan to implement recommendations issued by the Human Rights Commission (HRC), which held a widely publicized hearing in 1996 and released the final report of that meeting last summer. At the April 23 meeting of the board's Health, Family, and Environment Committee, Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Leslie Katz, and Sue Bierman unanimously recommended the creation of a 15-member task force that would work until mid-1999 and then disband.

If approved by the full board, which is expected since the measure is co-sponsored by seven of the 11 board members, the task force would have the ability to investigate city departments' compliance and to develop a plan for specific departments to implement the recommendations. Last summer the HRC released an extensive final report on the 1996 hearing, which was the first time there was a meeting devoted exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth in the city.

At last week's hearing, several speakers emphasized the importance of a task force and pointed to the 97 findings and 116 recommendations contained in the HRC report that cover a broad range of issues in the following categories: youth and schools; family, housing, and shelter; health and mental health; youth

services; and juvenile justice. One of the major reasons for the legislation is the finding that queer youth often face severe isolation, harassment, and discrimination.

"We support the creation of a task force and are pleased but also greatly disturbed," HRC's Larry Brinkin told the committee. "The representation of San Francisco as a mecca is overstated." He added families of queer youth continue to kick the young people out of their homes, often leaving them nowhere to go. "The police and juvenile [officials] are still very oppressive and our own community ignores the needs partly out of fears of being labeled child molesters."

Others who testified to the importance of having the task force were openly gay Youth Commissioner Dennis Isner and Brian Cheu, new executive director of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC). Cheu, who used to work at the HRC, was instrumental in compiling the final report.

Brinkin spoke to the importance of a task force that has the power of the supervisors behind it. "I think city departments will pay attention." Not only are departments more likely to respond to inquiries from the task force, Ammiano pointed to another important factor — money.

"The board of supervisors approval will give it needed funds to be effective," Ammiano told the B.A.R.

In his mind, one of the first orders of business for the task force should be to look into the juvenile justice system and how it deals with LGBTQQ youth. "There's been a commitment to improve [from department officials], but I have yet to see it," said Ammiano. Among the recommendations in

the HRC report, are to implement sensitivity trainings on LGBTQ issues for all personnel who deal with youth and to implement protocols and procedures that ensure the juvenile justice system will be a safe and affirming for queer or questioning youth. Another recommendation is to hire openly gay staff at the city's Youth Guidance Center.

Under the proposed legislation, membership of the task force would consist of 15 voting members designated as follows: six selected by the Youth Commission; three people designated by the HRC; five members appointed by the supervisors; and one member appointed by the mayor. Additionally, the task force will include several non-voting members from various city departments, including public health, human services, recreation and parks, juvenile probation, police, and the mayor's office. ▼

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People who have moved into either county since the last election must re-register in order to vote June 2. ▼

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## OPEN FORUM

## To Ellen back

This is a week of comings and goings: Mark Leno has become our latest supervisor, and Ellen DeGeneres has become the latest casualty in America's cultural war against gays and lesbians.

There are those who argue that Ellen's show wasn't funny enough to survive, but anyone who has ever watched *Full House* can tell you that that can't be the real reason. Yes, we wish the show was consistently funnier, but if the choice was between staying true to life or devolving into the giddy faux-hilarity that passes for comedy on much of television these days, DeGeneres did the right thing. Even if that means cancellation.

Now we hope this doesn't get turned into a referendum on lesbianism, and used by the right wing to "prove" the U.S.A. hates dykes. If it does, we hope that talk show star with the huge following (and quite a lot preceding, come to think of it) will come out of the closet to prove that, in fact, America loves a lot of people who sleep with their own sex. (Note to that TV star: you know who you are, and if you don't want people to know about your sexuality, you shouldn't steal the life partners of our buddies. 'Nuff said.)

Anyway, we wish DeGeneres the best of luck — ditto her lover, Anne Heche — and look forward to a lot of great work in the future.

Mom always told us there's nothing like some hot supe to take your mind off your troubles, so we consoled ourselves after learning about Ellen's cancellation by attending Mark Leno's swearing-in. The Herbst Theatre was packed — think Studio 54 in 1979, but without the Qiana shirts — and the mood was upbeat and optimistic throughout.

We hope that the other supes — particularly, but not exclusively, Tom Ammann and Leslie Katz — help him achieve his full measure of effectiveness. If, as we have heard, some supes' backers are planning to sabotage Leno to make their favorite candidate "stronger," they are doing everyone a disservice. There is much to be done positively, and too little time to devote to negativity, for them to stoop to such games. The people will lose, and eventually the saboteurs will lose — possibly dragging their candidates down with them. They should consider themselves warned.

Finally, for those of you whose memories may be going, or who didn't notice the article in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, we'd like to remind everyone that the annual AIDS Dance-A-Thon will be held this weekend. It will be this Saturday, May 2 at the Concourse Exhibition Center, and will be locally produced for the first time in its history in San

Francisco. The changes guarantee that the event will be leaner, and more attractive to our way of thinking, than ever before. (And, after all that dancing, so will the participants.)

It is always good to see AIDS organizations searching out ways of reducing overhead, as Mobilization Against AIDS has done with the Dance-A-Thon. It is frequently lost on fundraising mavens that those funds are *not* being raised so they can build themselves beautiful new Beverly Hills homes (as the producer of that loathsome gin-hawking bike trip has done with his earnings). The money is supposed to be improving the lives of people with HIV.

Next weekend's Ron Wilmot Bike Ride (on May 9) is a perfect rebuttal to that other bike ride, and an example of how bike trips for AIDS *ought* to be run: locally, and with the highest possible rate of return to an organization that provides crucial services (in this case, Project Inform), rather than as a funnel for the community's money to end up in the producer's pocket. We hope everyone who gets involved in the bigger ride will prove that their primary intentions are to help fight AIDS — and not just to get a fun week's vacation heading south — by joining in the Wilmot Ride.

And it seems that everyone who needs to get in better shape for that event next week

has a perfect opportunity to do so at the Dance-A-Thon this week.

Speaking of reinvention at AIDS organizations, we're glad to see that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is reevaluating prevention efforts and updating its approach. Obviously there is a need to keep one step ahead of the forces that lead to seroconversions, and we hope SFAF is correct in its belief that the Gay Life program can help.

Still, we're waiting (did we already say "still?") for someone to reinvent prevention in more tangible ways. Where is the HIV-killing lube? We know it's a subject that we mention a lot, and know that some people think we do so to excess; that reminds us of the guy who used to get up at ACT UP meetings eight years ago and go on and on and on about a kind of drug that he was convinced would be the most important step forward against HIV infections. Eventually everyone got tired of listening to him and his dissertations on those ... uh ... *what were they called?* Oh, yeah. Protease inhibitors.

Someday microbical lubricants could even surpass protease inhibitors as the single greatest step forward against the epidemic. We just hope that it won't take eight or ten years until they become part of San Francisco's prevention programs, and an integral part of Gay Life, and gay life. ▼



## Editorial



## The long and winding road

by Charles Crapse

I arrived in this beautiful city on August 19, 1994 on board a Greyhound Bus with three pennies in my shirt pocket and not a friend in the world. But you see, I really didn't care: I was a hopeless drunk (or so I thought) and friendship was the last thing on my mind. All that concerned me was my next drink and who I could con it out of.

Shortly after wandering the streets and living in the shelters, I landed on General Assistance (G.A.) and in a residential slum hotel; which, with an address enabled me to land a job as a waiter at a hotel. After being there for only three weeks my birthday rolled around. And as with any good alcoholic, that was as good a reason to party as any. After passing out in the wee hours of the morning, I over-slept and was fired.

Now I was back at square one again, so I began to plot and scheme. I had been employed so I'd cut my G.A. off, and I'd do anything before going back to the streets or to the shelters. So I did what most alcoholics and drug addicts do in San Francisco when fall and cold weather approaches: I went through detox and checked myself into a rehab program (in my case St. Anthony's).

After being sober for any length of time in many years, I had my moment of clarity; those of you in recovery — and there are many in SF — know what I'm talking about. For the first time in my life, I made a

promise to myself I'd finish just one thing I'd started.

The program I'd entered lasted a year: six months in one house learning to be and stay sober, and six months in another house learning to be responsible for my actions and holding a job. I was 40 years old and looking back, I had absolutely nothing to show for my life. It was time for the party to stop and to get off the never-ending merry-go-round.

In my last six months in the program I found a good job and saved enough money to get a nice apartment and start a new life. There was still something missing though; I was still lonely. Sobriety isn't a whole lot of fun if you don't have anyone to share it with.

I was still new to sobriety, too new to hang out in the bars looking to meet a guy. And now that I was sober, I didn't want to get involved with a drinker anyway, that's what I'd spent the last year trying to correct! Didn't want to date anyone in AA at that time either. I had enough to worry about keeping myself sober without having to worry about keeping someone else sober.

One afternoon while reading the *B.A.R.*, I started glancing through the personal column and thought to myself, "Hey this is a freebie; I could run the ad for free and they'd pay to answer it." What did I have to lose? So I placed the first of what would be

about six or eight ads over a four month period. Met some really nice guys — and some screwballs too — but none really quite right for me. I thought as big as this city is, there has to be someone out there for me. But I was beginning to have serious doubts.

One afternoon after getting home from work, I called in to check and answer my messages on probably what was to be my last ad. The guy introduced himself as Dick (how cliché) and told me this was his first time ever answering an ad. We met at Sweet Inspirations on Market for coffee.

We sat and talked for four hours that first day.

That was over 18 months ago. I can honestly say having met him has truly changed my life — and probably kept me sober, too. For the first time in a long time someone saw something in me and took a chance, without reservation. Even knowing my complete past (and those of us in recovery have to be rigorously honest) he took that chance. He saw in me what I never did, I guess. He's a kind and gentle soul, never asking, "What can I get out of this relationship?" but "What can I put into it?"

Maybe you're also a little lonely, a little downtrodden — don't ever give up on yourself. Keep looking. There is someone out there for you; look where I came from and where I am today. I'm truly a lucky man. ▼



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## From the pen of a permanent Mark-er

Having been a close friend of Mark Leno's for more than 20 years, I am pleased and proud to note his appointment as Supervisor of the City and County of San Francisco.

In recent publicity, much has been made of Mark's prodigious fundraising efforts and his success in that realm. What has been overlooked, however, is Mark's equally prodigious extent of giving over the years, and although he may not have always been able to give enormous amounts, he has consistently and generously given to an astonishing variety of causes, groups, agencies, and nonprofit organizations, locally as well as nationally.

As a fundraiser, Mark has led by example. That is the reason the Herbst Theater was filled to overflowing for the celebration of his appointment, and not simply the fact that he has raised large sums of money over the years for so many worthy causes and organizations.

Angus Whyte  
San Francisco

## Calling all gray-lovers

Thanks for inviting Robert Gluck to curate your series of literary essays on "The Middle Ages" (April 9 and earlier). The topic of aging (past 30 or 40 or 50) is often suppressed, ignored, avoided, denied, and repressed, by queer and non-queer adults alike, whether they be young or old or middling.

Especially the sub-topic of older single persons' continuing needs for skin-to-skin touch (as massage, cuddling, sensuality, sexuality, etc.). Against the tide, Senior Unlimited Nudes tries to raise these awkward issues.

We're compiling a resource list for "gray-lovers" (persons over 40 and their friends). So we would appreciate any information or tips which B.A.R. readers could send to SUN, Box 426937, SF 94142. If anyone wants a free copy of the (yet unfinished) list, she or he could enclose a SASE.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
for Senior Unlimited Nudes

## G40+ Club is open to all

In reply to the letters from Tom Stoker and David Kaye. First of all, I agree with both of them re: missing the old SF Gay Raps as to how it helped fulfill a part of our needs for a healthy and fun-providing social life. Many of the wonderful people that I met there are still good friends to this day. Luckily, I have discovered other groups like Dignity, MCC, GLOE, and one of my favorites: G40+ (for gay men forty and over). They will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this summer and I have been an active member almost that long. They provide outstanding speakers and various social activities. You might say that they have taken on when the old Gay Raps ceased to exist ... although they are now 25 years old! The social meetings are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church located at Geary and Franklin. There are no membership dues but a collection is made and a bi-monthly raffle is held to help with the expenses. I personally would like to see more younger people attending and I have yet to see anyone under forty turned away because of their age. Why not plan to join us on Sunday, June 21 for our annual celebration of Gay Pride Week. We'd love to meet you and help make you feel welcomed. For information, telephone: (415) 552-1997.

Romeo L'Heureux  
San Francisco

## Express displeasure with your feet

Glen McLeod, in his letter ["Violence within the gay community," *Mailstrom*, April 23], misinterpreted portions of my letter describing an incident that happened at a Sandra Bernhard performance. Danny Williams, a local comedian who has performed countless times in San Francisco, did not throw a drink in Sandra Bernhard's face. That act was done by an unknown member of the audience. Danny Williams, in his role as Master of Ceremonies, used considerable wit and humor to defuse the very tense situation. It was in that context that I said, "The evening was saved by our own Danny Williams."

While I do not condone violence, I question whether a drink thrown in someone's face is equal to the killing of a child's classmate. However, Mr. McLeod's point is well taken — we probably should have voiced our displeasure with our feet and simply walked out of the performance.

I have the highest respect for Danny Williams as an entertainer and role model for the gay community. I am sorry that my letter, though misinterpreted, could cause his reputation to be tarnished.

Dennis L. Buckley  
Brentwood, CA

## Going Dutch

This is an appeal to any Dutch citizen who is currently living in or visiting the Bay Area. Here are the facts:

I wish to sponsor two Russian athletes to attend Gay Games Five in Amsterdam in August. The Dutch government requires a Dutch visa for East European visitors. The Dutch Consulate in Saint Petersburg, prior to issuing a visa, requires a letter of invitation from a Dutch citizen or organization before issuing a visa.

On 9/4/97, four Dutch people from the Gay Games Committee were hosted at a reception at the Harvey Milk Center in San Francisco. Pascal van den Noort, Director of Development, gave me his card and said contact him for assistance after 11/1/98 as regards this invitation. I sent him three e-mail requests before he replied saying send copy of these requests. I sent two more e-mails to which he advised he delegated it to their Outreach Group. I then sent five follow-ups (including one to Marc Janssens, executive director) and again no responses. I sent a letter to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs who promptly replied yes, Russians must have an invitation letter from a Dutch citizen or organization and please to go back to Pascal van den Noort of Gay Games Amsterdam for these invitations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said it could take up to 3 months for the Russians to get their visas, even with the invitation letters.

It appears the Dutch Gay Games Committee is in total disarray as it does not respond to appeals for this simple letter. Here are some facts about this situation with the two Russian athletes:

1). They are registered (and fees have been paid) to play on the New York Ramblers Soccer Team; 2). Their hotel has been prepaid from 31 July to 10 August; 3). Upon receipt of their Dutch visas, I will purchase their round-trip Saint Petersburg-Amsterdam air tickets; 4). They will each be provided \$300 miscellaneous living expense while in Amsterdam; 5). I will provide a financial guarantee to the Dutch government, if required, guaranteeing their exit on 10 August 1998.

In 1990 we sponsored two Scottish athletes to attend Gay Games Three in Vancouver because my lover and I are of Scottish heritage. Gay Games Five this year will be the first time that East Europe can be represented in the Games. We've even bought the Russian flag for Vladimir and Oleg to carry in the Opening Ceremonies and what a thrill that will be.

We have visited Holland several times and have always found the Dutch to be efficient, courteous and responsive. But the Gay Games Committee appears to have abandoned all these virtues. If you are a Dutch national who would be willing to help us, please call me at (415) 776-6447 or e-mail RainbowSF@aol.com.

Rod Geddes  
San Francisco

## A city full of Mrs. Madrigals

Many gay/lesbian/transgender San Franciscans are only able to afford to buy a home in San Francisco by buying a small multiple unit property. When we rent out these units, we are more interested in getting good neighbors than high rents. Before 1994, these small owner-occupied buildings were exempt from the Rent Control Ordinance, and generally provided better housing at a lower rent than buildings covered by rent control. All Prop E will do is restore the pre-1994 exemption.

By covering small owner-occupied buildings under rent control, we are discouraging owner-occupied buildings and encouraging absentee owners, with the lower level of maintenance and pride of ownership. Even communities with very strict rent control, such as Berkeley and Santa Monica, exempt small owner-occupied buildings! These small owners should not have to deal with the complex rules and bitter pettiness that rent control brings to owner-renter relations. As a result, many homeowners are actually removing in-law units from their homes rather than deal with the maze of rules and regulations of the rent board.

We must ask ourselves, do we want to live in a city full of Mrs. Madrigals, folks that are both landlords with a small "L", and Neighbors with a big "N", or do we want to live in a city full of derelict buildings, overflowing garbage cans, peeling paint and rent checks mailed to Marin? Please vote Yes on E!

Andrew Long  
San Francisco

## That would explain the lasso ...

I know it was on Will Rogers State Beach that George Michael came a cropper for getting too closely in touch with his masculinity, but did the incident occur in the very restroom in which Will Rogers never met a man he didn't like?

Strange de Jim  
San Francisco

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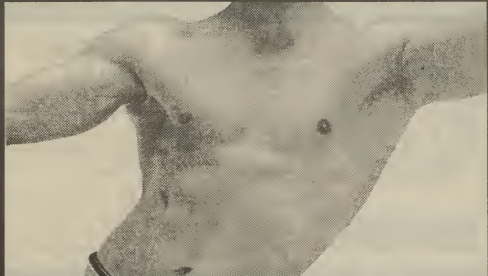
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### Looking for Shanti's volunteer alumni

I'm looking for Shanti's volunteer alumni — all the way back to 1981 when AIDS didn't even have a name. I am a former volunteer, working with others in organizing our May 30th reunion.

If you're a former volunteer and didn't get your invitation it probably means we have an out-of-date address. Please call our volunteer appreciation hotline at (415) 487-4751. Give your name and current address so we can send you another invitation.

Judith McCarthy Langley  
San Francisco

### Hit the ATA where it hurts

The federal court decision upholding the city of San Francisco's right to impose its domestic partner's law on businesses operating within the city is hardly the "landmark" ruling local leaders claim it is. Yes, the carefully crafted wording of the decision is the first in the nation to affirm a local domestic partner's law. But, on closer examination, U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilkins seems to have carved out a gaping exception for the federally regulated airline industry.

As it stands now, not a single major airline gives its employees domestic partner benefits. Wilkins's decision does nothing to change the status quo. In fact, rather than resolving the controversy, it further muddies the legal waters, and certainly guarantees many months, if not years, of legal wrangling in the courts.

Make no mistake about it, the Air Transport Association (ATA), the group representing the 21 airlines participating in the suit against the city, are the real winners here. ATA has vowed to continue to fight the city using whatever delay tactics and appeals they can muster to ward off compliance with an ordinance already embraced by hundreds of the city's top corporate employers.

Where does this leave San Franciscans who are committed to maintaining the integrity of the city's domestic partners ordinance, particularly in the face of the airline industry's intransigence? Don't look for help from local officials who won't seriously stand up to the airline industry's defiant nonconformance with the law. Likewise, the courts, faced with a number of related upcoming decisions, cannot be counted upon to turn aside industrywide discrimination practices.

No, the airlines aren't going to be listening too closely to expedient local officials or fuzzy judges who issue 95 page non-decisions.

Speaking as a frequent flier on one of the major airlines operating out of SFO, I'm convinced that this issue ultimately will be won at the ticket counter. That is why I intend to let my airline know that I am a very good customer, but, I'm unhappy with their involvement in the ATA lawsuit, and that I plan to switch to whatever airline may remove themselves from the suit and/or adopt domestic partner policies. I will demand they reply to my concerns. I will widely share my airline's reply with my fellow friends and passengers who may not be familiar with the issues.

Some say now is the time to talk boycott. Frankly, the threat of boycott or some other form of direct action aimed at forcing the air carriers to change their policies will most certainly backfire, fortifying the airline's resolve to continue this fight by what ever means necessary. In the end however, the struggle to win domestic partner benefits for airline employees will only come about when the airlines recognize that it is their best economic interest to make a change. In this situation, puffing our preferred airlines on notice where we stand — (a brief fax, letter, or e-mail will do fine) — will carry considerably more weight in corporate boardrooms than the predictable jeers from cranky city government types or a weaselly 95-page long ruling that allows both sides to claim "victory".

Either we believe in maintaining the integrity of the city's law, or we don't. The airlines, hiding behind the fig leaf of federal preemption, have drawn a line in the sand. As consumers we can fight back drawing our own line right at the ticket counter.

Mark Vandervelden  
San Francisco

### I wanna tissue all over

Regarding the "appendectomy scar" [Out There, April 16] on the incredibly lickable belly of Casper Van Dien — actually, it's more likely to be a (GASP!) knife wound or a poorly healed surgical scar. Behind it in that area are the liver and gall bladder.

If you showed a picture of his appendectomy scar, I would have eaten the page as it would be located in the "lower right quadrant" of the abdomen (just under the loin cloth next to his pubes) — another invitingly lickable region of this unfortunate young, hard, buffed, silky smooth, rippling body.

I have heard though that human saliva applied three to four times a day for five years can practically dissolve any abdominal scar tissue if done on a regular basis. I'd be willing to give this poor young scarred actor a break if he really wanted to improve on his looks.

Mike Eckenrode  
San Francisco

### Friend of Dorothy's

I found myself laughing out loud in a public and private place while reading Robert Julian's review of the movie *Tamango* in the April 23 edition of the B.A.R.

The review is merciless, acid, painfully funny and, in parts, accurate.

The late Dorothy Dandridge wasn't much of an actress, or at least that's what it looks like when you look at her movies, without taking into consideration that Dandridge had the great misfortune of having to work with a director like Otto Preminger, who took sadistic pleasure in destroying the weaker of his actors on the set. What little esteem Dandridge did have, when Preminger got through with her, physically and mentally, it was shot to hell, he did the same thing to another weak woman, the late Jean Seberg.

Unlike Dandridge's white counterparts — say like Marilyn, who was indulged in and allowed to take hundreds of takes for one sentence before finally getting it right — when directors edit and put these films together for public consumption, they can make or break an actor's image as talented or untalented. *Tamango* was a small budget film; but of all of Dandridge's films, for me *Tamango* is the most memorable, it was way ahead of its time, and though I respected and liked *Amistad*, I preferred *Tamango* because it concentrated solely on a slave's rebellion and willingness to die rather than live as a slave.

When you look at Dandridge's screen image, you can actually see the woman's insecurity working against her; you can see her desperate attempt at trying to act or be something that she is not, white, in her clipped way of talking, her mannerisms, and her almost psychotic way of looking at other actors; Marilyn's psychosis worked for her because she worked right into the hands of an audience who wanted to fuck her; we don't want sensibility and common sense and intellect in the ones we want to screw; it took many films for Monroe to finally show the world that there was talent beneath that psychotic personality and strange way of speaking, when finally she got the role of Cherie in *Bus Stop*.

Dandridge might be alive today if she hadn't taken herself so seriously and known that she was exposing herself to Sodom and Gomorrah; a pretty woman, tossed around like a rag, in the end having to make porno audio tapes to get some attention and becoming the laughing stock of demonic figures in Hollywood; she should have been more of a bitch.

Of all the raving beauties, only two survived, Ava Gardner and Lena Horne; they knew how to fight and to protect their integrity and esteem, and had guts.

Taking all that into consideration, with what little Dandridge really had, when I look at *Tamango*, finally I see what might have been. If Dandridge had made only one film to go down in history as important, *Tamango* is the one.

Writer Robert Julian should be tarred and feathered for his bitchiness a la Bernard Shaw. And for the record, and if she can hear it, I love Dorothy Dandridge as much as the world loves Marilyn.

Roy Lott  
Richmond, CA

### LYRIC says 'thanks'

As the new executive director of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), I wanted to publicly express my gratitude to a number of community organizations and businesses that have most recently supported our young people. During my first month here, I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of warmth and spirit of giving from so many diverse groups and agencies throughout our LGBT communities.

I especially want to thank the organizations which I personally have had a chance to meet with during my time here, including the Bears of San Francisco, Dignity-San Francisco, Juma Ventures and Starbuck's. Each group gave of their valuable time and financial resources to held lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth here in the Bay Area access peer support services. It truly means so much to these young people for representatives from so many parts of the community to give so generously. I wish I had the opportunity to tell each organization about the wonderful work that LYRIC does, and how important it was for our youth participants to feel so supported from the rest of the LGBT community. I want to state publicly that the San Francisco community has certainly turned out in force to show their commitment to helping our youth achieve their highest potential. Thanks to everyone involved, and we look forward to many opportunities to work with all the members of our community in the future.

Brian Chue  
Executive Director, LYRIC  
San Francisco

Send signed, original legible letters to the B.A.R., 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Sorry, no faxed or e-mailed letters. Please include a telephone number where we can verify authorship; that number will not be printed.



## POLITICS

# Constant Congress

by Wayne Friday

Although the June primary is causing a lot of headlines in California, it's the November congressional elections that have captured the attention of the White House and leaders in Congress. Both Republicans and Democrats seem to agree that given the strong economy and unusually high voter contentment, few incumbents are in any real danger. Despite some wishful Democratic thinking, the status quo is likely to reign in D.C. come November, with Republicans probably holding on to their slim leads both in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Only once in this century has the party in the White House actually gained congressional seats in an off-year election. However, some influential strategists on the Democratic side do feel that if President Bill Clinton's approval ratings stay high (currently 68 percent), their party could, with the help of millions in campaign spending and an all-out effort by Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, possibly return the House to the Democrats in a scant six months.

The 11-seat margin that Republicans now hold in the House is so slim that even some GOPers privately admit that their advantage there might be in danger. Although Mr. Clinton's highly publicized White House sex scandals still could hurt the Democrats before the fall general elections, particularly if Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr's soon-to-be-released report proves a powder keg, political analysts in both parties currently feel that the stable economy and a lack of contentious issues leave most challengers with nothing to hang a campaign on.

Indeed, at least 29 Republican and 18 Democratic House members will face no opponent from the other party in November. Two years ago, only 10 Republicans and eight Democrats ran unopposed.

A recent U.S.A. Today/CNN Gallup Poll finds that an unusually high 49 percent of all voters asked think that the current Congress is doing a decent job. A whopping 64 percent believe that their own representative in Congress deserves re-election. Only 19 percent say that their current lawmaker doesn't merit another term.

In addition to all House posts, a third of U.S. Senate seats and 36 governorships are at stake. In the races for the state house, however, Republicans will have to defend 24 of the 36 gubernatorial spots. Democrats could actually gain two or three of these positions. (A record 16 women are U.S. gubernatorial hopefuls this year.)

In California, where the 52-seat congressional delegation is composed of 29 Democrats and 23 Republicans, few expect much change in the numerical breakdown. However, Democrats are expected to pick up the 2nd District seat now held by Republican Frank Riggs and Representative Brian Billbray's San Diego-area spot. The GOP, in turn, could grab seats now held by Democrats Vic Fazio in Sacramento and gubernatorial candidate Jane Harman in Long Beach.

Interestingly, Zippertgate and all the attendant hoopla could play out in a couple of ways. First, it could bring an unusual number

of angry, Clinton-hating Republicans to the polls. Or, if the House GOP tries to conduct impeachment hearings against a hugely popular president, Democratic candidates could benefit from the public perception that Republicans are being excessively partisan. Secretly, however, the higher-ups in both parties hope the sex scandal issue doesn't become a political one before November, if for no other reason than no one knows which party would be hurt or helped the most.

In conclusion, look for the Republicans to retain control of both the House and the Senate. In all likelihood, the Democrats

will gain three or four House seats and possibly one U.S. senate (New York) seat. Still, considering it's an off-year election, that's not a bad result for the Clinton-Gore team.

## Politics and people

Not in recent memory can I recall more spirited campaigns for local judicial posts! From where I sit, incumbent Judge **Dorothy von Beroldingen** (they don't come any better) and Municipal Court Judge **Kevin Ryan** deserve our support in June. Meanwhile, the county Republican Party is putting out fliers aligning **V. Roy Lefcourt** with "left-wing activists" like **John Burton, Kevin Shelley, Carole Migden and Terence Hallinan.** Not bad company in this town. My four choices? Von Beroldingen, Ryan, Lefcourt, and **Ron Albers.**

In Napa, it was announced last week that the Statewide Association of Community Colleges will pay psychology professor **Raymond Becker** \$40,000 to settle a claim that he was discriminated against at Napa Valley College because he is heterosexual. Becker alleged that the college is run by a "homosexual cadre" that denied him advancement because of his sexual orientation. The settlement also calls for Becker to retire on June 2.

In Oklahoma, the state House of Representatives recently passed a measure that would ban homosexuals from working in public schools, although a similar law was struck down as unconstitutional in 1985. The bill is now headed for the Oklahoma state Senate.

In Fullerton, California, the cops wanted to change the name of Baker Avenue to "Pansy Circle" in an attempt to send gangs elsewhere. The cul-de-sac of apart-

ments is home turf to Fullerton's Baker Street Gang and is plagued by violent parties and lots of graffiti. "We don't want this to be an attractive area for a gang," one cop explained. He added, perhaps unnecessarily, that "the other connotation [of pansy] besides a flower is something a gang wouldn't want to identify with." (Oh, no? How about those fierce Fullerton Fey Florists!) However, some council members were afraid the name might offend gays. As an alternative, the council is now considering the rhododendron or chrysanthemum, figuring those might be tough for graffiti vandals to spell.

A poll released last week by Univision, the Spanish-language TV network, showed that Americans of Hispanic origin are more in tune with Democrats than Republicans. The poll found that 62 percent of registered Hispanic voters feel the Democratic Party represents their views, while only 41 percent were GOP adherents.

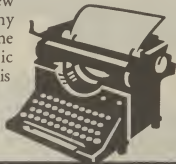
Popular Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** dealt another blow to bilingual education last week when he endorsed Prop. 227, which would end California's current system of teaching students for whom English is a second language. Bill Clinton, on the other hand, has gone on record opposing the measure.

Prop. 226, which would require unions to obtain members' permission before spending dues on (presumably pro-labor) political candidates, is yet another bad idea. The measure says nothing about Big Business spending shareholders' money on (presumably pro-business) candidates.

Two local propositions headed for defeat (read: a defeat for Mayor **Willie Brown**, a win for Senator **Quentin Kopp**) are Prop. F and Prop. K, the restoration of City Hall and the development of Treasure Island, respectively.

Some political observers thought that Bill Clinton's support among American women after allegations re: **Paula Jones/Kathleen Willey/Monica Lewinsky**, etc. surfaced would suffer. A recent U.S.A. Today/CNN/Gallup Poll would seem to indicate otherwise. Clinton's job approval rating stands at 73 percent among women. Before the Lewinsky scandal broke, women gave the Prez a 62 percent thumbs-up.

Senator **Dianne Feinstein** is still pushing GOP senate leaders hard on confirmation hearings for **James Hormel**. Look for the Senate to finally cave in on this one. ▼



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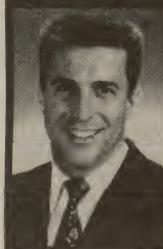
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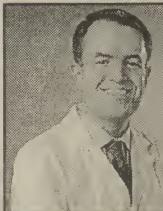


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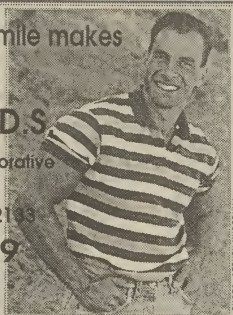


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# And it's one, two, three

by Beth Elliott

Just Folking Around Again Dept.: Any readers interested in some really beautiful folk/pop music by up-and-coming local artists would do well to direct your attention to *Bridge The Distance*, the new CD by Double Gammon. Double Gammon would be the lovely and talented Becky Lloyd and the lovely and talented Dave Des Roches. Becky does most of the songwriting, and when I think of how many of her creative years are still ahead of her, I get all incoherent. Beautiful and expressive singing voice, too. All the cuts on the album are good; "Rock You to Sleep" and "Grounded" will tear you all up inside in that way that will have you coming back for more.

Being on the mailing list meant getting invited to the CD release party at the Blue Muse in Hayes Valley, one of the nicest places I've heard them outside living rooms where everyone's packing guitars. Dave and Becky were really nice and pretended not to notice when, as Dave moved a potted tree out of the line of sight, I broke into a Peter Gabriel tune and sang "Whoa, bye-oh, oh; whoa, bye-oh, we are moving the tree." But then, they've had practice ignoring bad puns, hanging around our mutual wacky musician friends.

They do have a mailing list ... surf or drop a line to Smoking Bishop Music, P.O. Box 423747, San Francisco 94142-3747. Drop



JERRY BUSINESS

17 snakes at that address, and back comes a CD you'll absolutely love. Yo Beth sez, check it out.

There's an Earth Out Tonight, Whoa-Ho-Ho-Ho Dept.: Anyone else been catching Tom Hanks's *From the Earth to the Moon* series on HBO about the Apollo program? Goes to show you're not just being a nerd if you can back it up, which our home boy has done. I've found it excellent so far; there's been a lot of footage on the technology, but nobody said it wouldn't be rocket science, eh?

For the record, I still think naming a lunar exploration program after a sun god is still one of the most damned stupid decisions ever made under the influence of testosterone poisoning ... second, perhaps, to pig-headedly keeping on with that stupid war to prop up a corrupt government, in power against the wishes of its own people, in the name of democracy. No, make that third ... first place would go to a "people's" government dedicated to leveling the playing field by wiping out "privilege" ... and two million of its own people in the process.

(Pol Pot's defunct. Who used to ride with a watersmooth Khmer Rouge detachment and shoot onetwothreefourfive people justlikethat. Jesus, he was an evil man. And all I want to know is, how do you like your brown-eyed boy, Mr. and Ms. You're Not Progressive If You Dis Marxism?)

Even without those thoughts in mind, one of the most gripping installments for me would still have been "1968." This episode focused on all the tensions of that year: not just rushing Apollo VIII on its way, ahead of the Soviets, to a manned orbit of the moon (and that earthrise footage that changed our picture of our world forever) but also the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, the police riot in Chicago outside the Democratic Convention, and the brutal suppression of freedom in Czechoslovakia.

Many of my childhood friends and I turned 18 in 1968. Some among us, by virtue of that fact, faced getting drafted and sent to get their asses kicked, in a war we all considered a betrayal of America, by people fighting for their homeland on terrain they knew and we didn't. I had been the first at my school to support Eugene

McCarthy when he challenged a sitting president of his own party over that war. I never forgave Bobby Kennedy for waiting to jump into the race until Mc-

Carthy had knocked LBJ out of it. Nonetheless, by the California primary in June, RFK was our only hope for ending the madness. And I am haunted to this day by the memory of shaking his hand as he leaned out of a slow-

moving convertible in Sacramento,

amazed that a United States senator would wear his hair long enough to hang over the top of his ears. I don't remember how long that was before he was killed ... two weeks? At most.

We were right to stand up to a government that would force people into an immoral war ... against a government and an ideology that would go to even greater lengths — and sink to greater depths — to enslave its own people. In Vietnam, the patriots ended up outflanked by the party hacks who were in the anti-privilege movement to score privilege of their own. Mao's Cultural Revolution made our political correctness look like a tea party (and too many people still don't make the connection between the two: one of degree, not of kind). North Korea ... now, there's an argument for central economic planning.

What started us down the slippery slope was a refusal to honor the 1954 Geneva accords, signed in the wake of the colonialist French getting the *merde* knocked out of them at Dienbienphu. These called for national elections ... elections everyone knew Ho Chi Minh would win. In the context of the Soviet Union enslaving half of Europe, followed by Krushchev's promise to "bury" the west, one can almost understand the decision to undercut the democratic process instead of leaving people free to make their own mistakes. Like that one Vietnamese village, we ended up having to destroy democracy in order to save it. Is the world more free today for our having done so? I don't know.

Funny, but I thought of that old draft resistance poster with Joan Baez and Mimi Fariña ... the one that said "Girls Say Yes to Boys Who Say No?" Maybe it's time that girls said yes to girls who said no when they were boys back in the '60s. Would that be, like, "closure" or something? ▼

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## SCIENCE

## Oh, bi the way...

by Simon LeVay

**Z**eus came as an eagle to god-like Ganymede, as a swan came he to the fair-headed mother of Helen. So there is no comparison between the two things; one person likes one, another likes the other; I like both."

These lines of poetry from the days of imperial Rome suggest that there's nothing new about bisexuality, or the need for bisexuals to assert their own identity. Bisexual men and women enjoy a broader sexual experience than most people, but they also face unique problems of identity and acceptance.

Negative attitudes towards bisexual people — sometimes called "biphobia" — have several roots. One common perception, expressed particularly by gay men, is that bisexuals don't exist: that the label "bisexual" is simply a euphemism employed by gay people who don't want to fully acknowledge their homosexuality.

This perception is understandable enough, for many gay men do go through a phase of calling themselves bisexual. In a 1994 *Advocate* survey, 40 percent of men who identified as gay said that they described themselves as bisexual at a younger age. Since true male bisexuality is not very common, the majority of men who call themselves bisexual are probably in the gay coming-out process. Still, some men are true lifelong bisexuals. Among women, bisexuality is decidedly more common than among men, although the exact numbers vary greatly depending on the kind of definition that is used.

Another complaint made against bisexuals by gay men is that they are promiscuous, have more than one partner at a time, or don't engage in long-term relationships. Of course, gay men themselves are not famous for their monogamous ways, so this is a case of the French fries calling the burger greasy.

More puzzling are the negative attitudes towards bisexuals expressed by heterosexual people. Michele Eliason of the University of Iowa College of Nursing recently conducted a survey of attitudes towards bisexuality among 229 heterosexual college students. Most of the students said they had no bisexual friends or acquaintances and knew little about bisexuality, yet 61 percent of the students stated that they found bisexual men unacceptable, and 50 percent found bisexual women unacceptable. In contrast, only about 40 percent of the students found gays or lesbians unacceptable. Bisexuality clearly aroused stronger antipathy than homosexuality, especially among heterosexual men.

Although many of the reasons for biphobia are similar to the reasons for homophobia, Eliason found some differences. Bisexuals are viewed as even more preoccupied with sex than gay men (as if that were possible). Furthermore, there is much less willingness to believe that bisexuals are "born that way," compared with lesbians or gay men. This could well be a significant factor in the prevalence of biphobia. I say this because, in the case of homosexuality, the belief in the "born that way" theory is strongly correlated with positive attitudes towards gay people, and two studies have

shown that providing people with evidence supportive of the "born that way" theory makes them more gay-friendly.

The notion that bisexuality is more environmental in origin is widespread, even among academics. I was surprised, a couple of years ago, when a well-known queer theorist said to me "How can sexual orientation be genetic — what about bisexuals?" According

to that point of view, we could believe that a cat's fur color is genetic as long as there are only black cats and white cats, but as soon as we find out that there are gray cats the genetic theory of fur color goes out of the window. In reality, of course, genes can set up a broad continuum of fur color, sexuality, and most other traits.

Having said that, I do confess that biologically oriented scientists such as myself have oversimplified the spectrum of sexual orientation, breaking the population down into "gay" and "straight" where more subtle gradations are called for. Simplification is often necessary to make progress, but when simplification is perceived as oversimplification, that's a signal that it's time to go to the next level of complexity. In the case of sexual orientation, that means focusing specifically on the development of a bisexual identity.

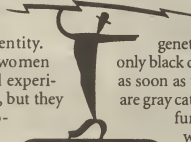
The scientific questions about bisexuality are paralleled by political questions. Should bisexual men and women emphasize their differ-



ences from either gay or straight people, and seek to develop their own bisexual identity and culture, or should they see themselves as the go-betweens, the natural bridge-builders between the ever-warring gay and straight worlds? These questions are for bisexuals themselves to decide. Perhaps they need to complete the former task before they tackle the latter. ▽

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain, City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nolas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He may be reached at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com). For more Queer Science columns, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net).

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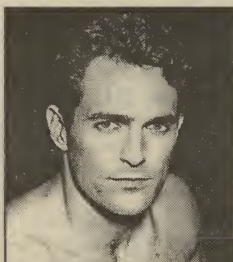
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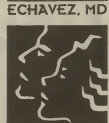
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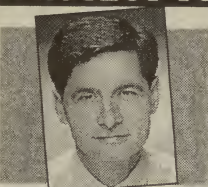
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# Rainbow flags at half-mast for Ellen

by Don Romesburg,  
GLAAD/SF media resource  
center manager

late Thursday, April 23, ABC sources confirmed that the network had decided to cancel *Ellen*. The decision comes after many months of speculation regarding the sitcom's future, which began with the parental warnings which were issued on the primetime show, and continued into March, when they put the show on hiatus. ABC's announcement last week of their decision to air only the season finale, pre-empting two episodes that had already been taped, served as a final sign from the network that *Ellen*'s cancellation was impending. The mid-season replacement, *Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place* will run in *Ellen*'s place for at least the next two weeks, and perhaps into next season.

Ellen DeGeneres expressed disappointment to *Daily Variety* but said, "Look for me in my new sitcom, *Two Girls, a Horse and Some Wine Coolers*." (And Craig Kilborn, the host of Comedy Central's *Daily Show*, suggested ABC will rename the replacement series *Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place — But No Lesbians*.)

"ABC's decision clearly denies the profound impact that *Ellen* has had on our society and the future of television programming," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "*Ellen* has served as a lifeline for our community, and especially for the nation's gay and lesbian youth. It will be sorely missed." GLAAD has received many testimonials in the last year, and many of them from youth, regarding the positive impact which *Ellen* Morgan's coming out has had upon them. One 14-year-old lesbian called into CNN's *Larry King Live* show last fall and told GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono that "I knew I was gay before I'd even heard of *Ellen*, but without role models like them [DeGeneres and Bono] I would... have killed myself."

Please tell ABC how you feel about their decision. Emphasize the impact which the show has had on you personally, and encourage them to continue to include positive lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender characters in their programming.

Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, e-mail: netaudr@abc.com

### 20/20 talks labels

On April 17, 20/20 featured an extensive piece on JoAnn Loulan, a prominent writer who has been involved in a committed relationship with a man for the last two years. According to the segment, some members of the lesbian community have felt discomfort in hearing about Loulan's present relationship, since Loulan continues to identify as a lesbian, despite her current partner's gender.

Correspondent Lynn Sherr interviews Loulan, her boyfriend, a number of lesbian and gay individuals, and has a particularly in-

sightful interview with sociologist Dr. Paula Rust. The segment depicts a human and compassionate portrait of Loulan, discussing the impact of the backlash upon her personally. It also examines the conceptual fluidity of sexual identification.

"We're trying to apply words to a reality that doesn't stay still," says Rust. "And it doesn't work, because that's not the way reality is; that's not the way people experience their sexuality."

Sherr then asks her "What you're saying is that we get into trouble when we put these labels on sexuality?" to which Rust answers "Yes, and it is necessary. We need to talk about these things, so we do need labels, but at the same time, we need to realize that these labels are artificial."

Loulan herself closes the piece by saying, "We aren't so clear as to what is orientation and identity. It doesn't matter what anyone else says, it doesn't matter who your partners are, it doesn't matter what anyone says to you about what you are. This is inside you."

20/20 gives us an unusually detailed segment on sexual identification, and does a good job of explaining the tension which Loulan's identification has caused within the community. What is lacking, however, is the presence of bisexual voices within the discussion. While Dr. Rust is the author of a book entitled *Bisexuality and the Challenge to Lesbian Politics*, and while there is some discussion of bisexuality, there is no air time given to identified bisexual people.

Please thank the producers of 20/20 for including this discussion of sexual identification. However, encourage them to continue their discussion of sexual orientation and identity in a later piece devoted to bisexuality.

Contact: Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Ave., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10023-5900

### EW takes Minutes

An article in the April 24 issue of *Entertainment Weekly* (EW), points out the problems with a March 22 *60 Minutes* story. EW ascertained that the news-magazine, which "often turns up its nose at topics deemed too 'tabloid,'" offers "the best and worst of American journalism." Emphasis was placed upon Mike Wallace's rather one-sided coverage of gay studies programs on university campuses.

"Mike Wallace offered a limp would-be exposé of gay-studies... that showed just how out of step *Minutes* can be," EW states. Pointing out that "Wallace proceeded to bash homosexual-history courses and the distribution of safe-sex handbooks," EW criticizes *60 Minutes* for using "cheaply cut" camera shots to vilify and belittle those who take lesbian and gay studies seriously.

Please write EW and with thanks for recognizing many of the intrinsic problems with that *60 Minutes* story. Also, please write *60 Minutes* and reassert your displeasure with their misguided attack on lesbian, gay, bi-

sexual, and transgender academia.

Contact: James W. Seymore, Jr., Managing Editor, *Entertainment Weekly*, 1675 Broadway, New York, NY 10019-5895; Andrew Heyward, News President, CBS Television Network, 524 West 57th St., NY, NY 10019-2902; and Don Hewitt, Executive Producer, *60 Minutes*, 555 West 57th St., NY, NY 10019-2925.

### Times are-a changin'

The April 19 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* features an article entitled "Playing Straight With Gays," in which writer Cliff Rothman explores the "new 1998 model of gay man" as the "swishy stereotype fades from film."

Rothman writes, "It's been a long haul. Gays have moved from invisible to tortured pervert to diseased victim. They've played Eve Arden, Camille, and RuPaul acerbically quipping, suffering nobly, or swishing royally. Now they're certified husband material — if not yet to the boy next door, at least to the girl next door — unapologetically gay and the male lead of a major studio film for the first time."

Using the recent release of 20th-Century Fox's *The Object of My Affection* and the soon-to-be-aired Lifetime movie *Labor of Love* as his examples, Rothman notes that gay male characters are as fleshed out as they have ever been on film. He also notes that for the first time "Family is no longer an obscene word for gay men."

He writes, "The watershed shift this year owes its debt to last year's watershed shift. Rupert Everett in *My Best Friend's Wedding* and Kevin Kline in *In & Out* were handsome, masculine, gay, and center stage — though Kline was mostly in the closet and asexual, and Everett was the sidekick rather than lead. But still, showcased in farcical comedy — a still-accepted norm for tiptoeing through gay life — the films were the seventh and 22nd top-grossing domestic films of the year. ... While not yet openly waving the banner for gay equality next to the Hollywood sign, studios are taking the plunge with prominent, and positive, gay characters in upcoming big-budget films in unprecedented numbers."

Rothman's assessment is that "in fairness to Hollywood, films don't lead, they mirror. Hollywood is homophobic because America has been homophobic. And the films are changing because America is changing."

Please thank Cliff Rothman for such an interesting and well thought out article on Hollywood's growing willingness to represent lesbians and gay men in fairer and more accurate ways.

Contact: Michael Parks, Managing Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053 ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# LIFE Lobby closes

by Michael R. Gorman

"I'm still catching my balance. I was caught totally off guard. I hadn't even heard rumors of ill health," said David Mixner, the national gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) rights advocate whose conflicts with friend Bill Clinton over the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy made national headlines during Clinton's first term. He was speaking of his reaction to the announcement that California's state-wide gay rights and AIDS/HIV lobby, The Lobby For Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE Lobby), would be ceasing operations by Friday, May 1.

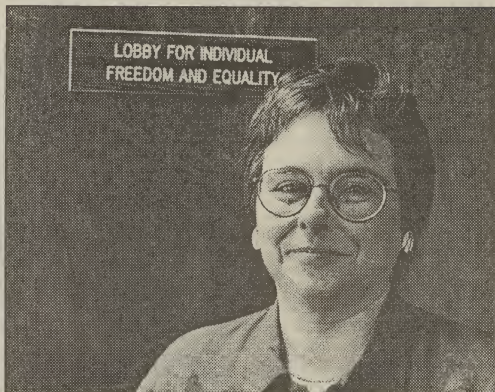
Mixner continued, "Although I believe in a lot of options being kept open for creating change — government, working for candidates, running for office, going to jail, the arts — I militantly believe that we need a lobby in the state capital. The right wing has a very effective lobby. We can't assume Sheila and Carole [Assemblymembers Sheila Kuehl and Carole Migden] can carry things alone. A lobby is absolutely a critical component of an effective professional movement."

LIFE Lobby formed in 1986 as a statewide coalition of AIDS service and educational organizations, originally calling itself the LIFE AIDS Lobby. Its controlling body, the House of Delegates, was made up of representatives from the various grassroots organizations. The board of directors, a much smaller group, oversaw the organization and tended to the finances of the lobby. Because AIDS issues and civil rights issues were so inextricably intertwined at the time, the lobby eventually took on civil rights issues related to the GLBT community. For 12 years it has been the primary voice in the halls of the state capitol for California's GLBT community, supporting and sometimes helping to draft progressive legislation, and fighting to defeat regressive bills. With its extensive network of local organizations, it was able to rally support in virtually every legislator's district.

But the passion for policy was not always matched by a balancing passion for raising the necessary money to fund the operations. According to one former staffer, "When I got there, buying a Xerox machine was a six-month project."

Rand Martin, Chief of Staff to State Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara) said of the lobby's financial woes, "It's been coming for a long time. When LIFE Lobby began, it was essential to give it as broad a base as possible to ensure credibility, but it was a model that was very challenging. The large number of representatives on the board and in the House of Delegates did a good job formulating policy. But it never matched the equally important need for fundraising. In recent years the two governing bodies gave lip service to raising money, but they never attacked it with the same passion as they did policy. People have worked with good intention, but you have to pay the bills."

As it turned out, for some time those bills, at least the salaries of the staff, have been paid by Southern California publisher Bob Craig. The executive director of LIFE Lobby, Laurie McBride has worked without a salary for months.



Laurie McBride: "People need to realize that if we are going to have a movement, we have to invest in our work at the state level."

## 'Destined for obsolescence'

On the weekend of April 18, LIFE Lobby held its quarterly meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD), an historic event in itself because the delegates met for the first time in the Capitol Building in Sacramento. A faction of the leadership concerned with the continuing financial insolvency of the organization presented a proposal to streamline the lobby, giving more control to the board with a stipulation that board members would raise substantial donations for the support of the lobby's work. They proposed that the HOD give up voting for the Board and turn the responsibility for the by-laws over to the board. The HOD would remain the primary arbiters of policy.

As McBride summarized it, "We were trying to change the structure to incorporate more fundraising."

The meeting was rancorous, according to some in attendance. Those against the change accused others of a power grab. Much was made of the need to keep the current structure, to ensure the diversity of the representation and the breadth of the policy. Others argued that fundraising needed to be given more emphasis on the board, or the organization simply would not survive. There was also much discussion over whether or not to split the issues of civil rights and AIDS/HIV, and whether there was a need to streamline the decision-making process. In the end, the vote was to keep the status quo.

McBride said of the stalemate, "The structure has always been unique and has always been a challenge. The House of Delegates in this organization has always had control. It's very hard to change something as fundamental as who has control."

On the following Monday, Laurie McBride announced to the staff of LIFE Lobby in its Sacramento office that the money for operating the lobby would cease at the end of the month, and therefore the lobby would no longer function. Two days later, on Wednesday, April 22, the members of the gay and lesbian PAC, Capital Political Action Committee (CAPPAC), heard the news at their annual Table Sponsor Party from LIFE delegates and a board member. Most were taken by surprise. They learned that half of the LIFE board had quit since the weekend.

In the days that have followed the announcement, there has been a flurry of activity and discussion between leaders in the

state trying to create the phoenix that they hope will rise soon out of the ashes of the LIFE Lobby.

As Assemblymember Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) put it, "It's tragic when an organization with LIFE Lobby's important mission cannot pay its bills. We're looking forward to a replacement that can lower the overhead or raise the funds necessary to support our community's agenda in Sacramento. The LIFE Lobby leaves a huge gap that must be filled."

Kuehl, Speaker Pro Tem of the California State Assembly, said of LIFE's demise, "The structure itself was greatly at fault. The board's refusal to change the structure forced everybody's hand." Kuehl expressed confidence that she and her staff, Migden and her staff, gay-friendly legislators, and the other gay and lesbian aides in the capitol, would be able to continue the vital work of addressing, for now, the community's agenda, but she added, "I would be extremely worried if something weren't being organized in the wings."

McBride has indicated that she will continue to "prowl the halls" of the capitol on a volunteer basis while discussions proceed on the replacement for LIFE.

And as one LIFE Lobby staff member said, "I just want to make sure Lou Sheldon doesn't have the playing field to himself."

Integral to the discussions crisscrossing the state is John Duran. He was involved with the founding of LIFE Lobby and served as its co-chair with San Francisco attorney Don Disler from 1987 until 1992. He says that this week, "I'm doing a lot of lunches."

Unlike most who heard the news about LIFE, Duran was not surprised. "Last year Laurie called and said, 'We're in trouble. I need you to come back to the lobby.' I said no. I am the Chair of the LIFE Institute, the 501(c)3 organization that served as the educational arm of LIFE. The Institute is still solvent and will continue, but we are prohibited from engaging in political activity. It's a gay and lesbian think tank. We need a corresponding organization in the political realm. But a group did look at the financial situation after Laurie's call and told the board that without change it was destined for obsolescence. That was coolly received. Two months later their task force came to the same conclusion."

## Reinvention time

Duran and other leaders are

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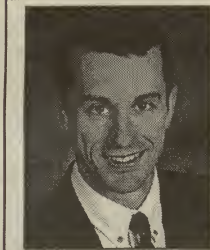
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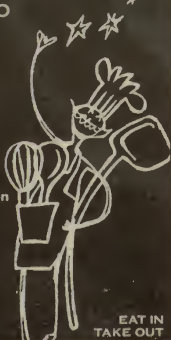
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## Tribestan Pro Invitational showcases local bodybuilders

by Jim Provenzano

**F**ans of bodybuilding will have a rare (or well-done, depending on how you like your beef) opportunity to enjoy a bodybuilding competition this weekend, and see some local favorites strut their very well-put together stuff. The Tribestan Pro Invitational is the first pro tournament in the area, and the top three finishers will qualify to compete at the Mr. Olympia competition, bodybuilding's coveted crown.

But first off ... what exactly is "Tribestan?" According to Emeric Delczeg, sponsor and competitor, "It's an amazing food supplement that can improve health." An extract from beans and corn discovered in 1904, Delczeg claims that chemical compound will also suppress HIV. Of course, Delczeg is not unbiased in his beliefs in his

product, and has faced understandable difficulty in convincing people about the merits of his supplement, which he recently licensed to Joe Weider's empire. Weider not only owns the Gold's gym franchise, but several bodybuilding magazines (and according to some critics, competitions as well).

Delczeg imported Tribestan, or the original version of it, from his native Romania, where he became a champion of his country in the sport of bodybuilding. He claims that this all-natural product will enhance cell building and delay weight loss. Delczeg hopes to work with HIV-positive folks, and will provide free product in exchange for lab work on their blood.

### Rubber clothes?

Delczeg has a lengthy fitness background in boxing, soccer, and of course, weightlifting. "I was

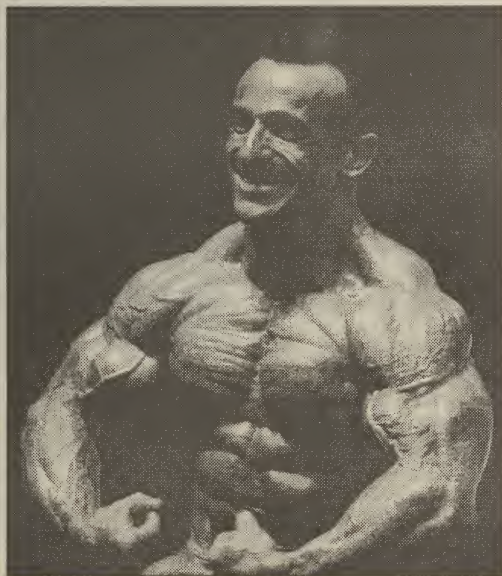
about 17 when I saw a page of one of the muscle builder magazines," he said. "I saw a page with the immensely muscular Steve Reeves and thought, that must be rubber clothes or maybe they did something to the pictures!"

At that time a lot of Italians were coming to Romania as tourists. Delczeg got an Italian guy to bring him muscles magazines. "I started to work out and the muscles started to come," he said. He continued training very hard, and eventually became the Romanian National Champion and also Eastern European Champion. Until the fall of Communism, he could only compete in Eastern bloc countries.

After emigrating to America, he worked many different jobs, from a nursing home in Akron, Ohio to running a cleaning service. "It was very hard work, but not bad money." He became a fitness instructor and developed his own business, distributing fitness supplements.

Now he sells Tribestan, an extract that he calls "a non-hormonal natural dietary supplement." Since then, Weider bought the U.S. rights to distribute the supplement. "He can reach so many people to educate the public."

Delczeg sees this as his giving back to the community by presenting a San Francisco-based bodybuilding competition. He and promoter Ron Kramer hope this will become an annual event,



Flavio Baccanini: "I prove that anybody can get up there."

the first pro tournament in the area.

"It's not just a sport, but an art," Delczeg said. And although he's not gay, he has tremendous respect for gay people. "Of course I train gay people," he said, mentioning that while not wanting to make generalizations, he consid-

ers his gay clients as "more health-conscious, very much sticking with the program."

His tips on how to work out better? "Anything that stimulates you. Wear funny shorts, look good, eat well." That may include steroids, he says. "Natural, or

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## Where's the beef?

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**Contra Costa Bodybuilder and Fitness Championships**, May 9 in Hayward (510) 822-2397

**Western States Natural Bodybuilding Championships**, June 7 in Vacaville (800) 491-1964.



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The safety profile of Combivir should be the same as that of Epivir® (lamivudine; 3TC) + Retrovir® (zidovudine; AZT). The most frequent side effects associated with Epivir + Retrovir taken together are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including AZT and 3TC.

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**References:** 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomised trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zalcitabine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet*. 1997;349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus didanosine in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

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Please see brief summary for Combivir on following page.

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## BRIEF SUMMARY

**COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)**

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

**WARNING:** ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.

**LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING ZIDOVUDINE AND LAMIVUDINE (SEE WARNINGS).**

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE:** COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

**Description of Clinical Studies:** COMBIVIR. There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine:** The NUC83007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death**

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus a NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

\*An investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

**WARNINGS:** COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

**Bone Marrow Suppression:** COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or hemoglobin <5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended. **Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis:** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity. **Myopathy:** Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

**General:** Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

**Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Infection:** In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

**Patients With Impaired Renal Function:** Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance <50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

**Information for Patients:** COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

**Drug Interactions:** Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon- $\alpha$ , and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis:**

**Lamivudine:** Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine was administered orally at three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five non-metastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose. In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months), non-metastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (-1,000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or -450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

**Mutagenicity: Lamivudine:** Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK<sup>+</sup> mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK<sup>+</sup> mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeated doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

**Impairment of Fertility: Lamivudine:** In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

**Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.**

**COMBIVIR:** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

**Lamivudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

**Zidovudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in therat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

**Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437.

**Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

**COMBIVIR:** Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers section of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

**Pediatric Use:** COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:**

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations:** In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

**Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (>5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day**

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
<b>Body as a whole</b>	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
<b>Digestive</b>	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
<b>Nervous system</b>	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
<b>Respiratory</b>	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
<b>Skin</b>	
Skin rashes	9%
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials. Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day\***

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm <sup>3</sup> )	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

\*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

**Observed During Clinical Practice:** The following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR, or a combination of these factors.

Alopecia, erythema multiforme, hyperglycemia, lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis, seizures, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria, and vasculitis.

**OVERDOSAGE:**

**COMBIVIR:** There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

**Lamivudine:** One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

**Zidovudine:** Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, 3'-azido-3'-deoxy-5'-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranuronosylthymidine (GZDV), is enhanced.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

**Dose Adjustment:** Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; and 4,837,208

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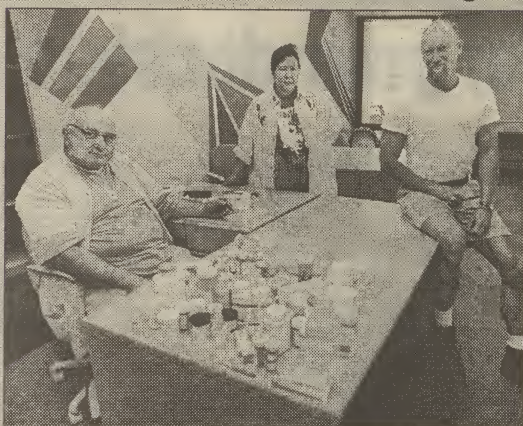
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## New home for Healing



The Healing Alternative Foundation is enjoying its new digs at 505 Castro Street. General Manager John Salvati, volunteer Peggy Taylor Campbell and customer Dave Mahon prepare to inventory one person's legacy as revealed in his many drugs. These will then be matched to computerized needs lists of clients and distributed to clinic patients in SF and other locations throughout the world. Persons wanting to donate unneeded drugs can call the HAF at 415-626-4053. Other HAF programs include a needle exchange site and vitamin sales.

Rich Gerbner

## Gays, lesbians encouraged to attend adoption forum Tuesday in Oakland

by Eric M. Rose

**A**dopt A Special Kid (AASK) will be sponsoring a free adoption workshop in Oakland this Tuesday, May 5 from 7-9 p.m. Singles, gays and lesbians, and older experienced parents are encouraged to attend this workshop which will offer information about the adoption process, AASK's free parent preparation classes, and the adoption program. Also, a film will be shown that includes gay and lesbian

adoptive families.

"We're very interested in attracting people who are gay and lesbian — they can be single parents or partners," Andrea Schneider of AASK told the B.A.R. "We have experience [in working with gays and lesbians]."

Although the workshop will be about adoption in general, they will also offer information on adopting children with special needs. According to Schneider, a child with special needs could be anything from children over three years old who are "survivors of

chaos" at home, usually involving parental drug or alcohol abuse, to children with learning delays and mental, physical, or medical disabilities, to sibling groups.

Some 25,000 children in California currently need permanent adoptive families. ▼

**Gay and lesbian individuals or couples interested in attending the free workshop, to be held at 287 17th Street, Suite 207 in Oakland, can call AASK at (510) 451-1748 to reserve a space.**

## G/L elders

◀ page 1

Lyon. Martin is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and gerontologist who advocates for the rights of the elderly and is credited with coining the term "ageism." Martin and Lyon, two local lesbian activists, founded the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955 and have been involved in numerous lesbian and gay and women's organizations over the years. They are co-authors of the books *Lesbian/ Woman* and *Lesbian Love and Liberation*.

Other presenters include Rose Dobrof of the Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College, Shevy Healey of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, Jason Heffner of GLAAD, Mattachine Society founder Frank Kameny, *Sexual Ecology* author Gabriel Rotello,

Gay Widowers author Michael Shernoff, and Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

The conference will include a plenary session examining the causes of ageism and anti-senior bigotry within the gay and lesbian community, and will include discussion of the gay "beauty culture" and the effects of ageism on gay and lesbian youth.

SAGE is the nation's oldest and largest social service agency "dedicated to honoring, caring for, and celebrating the lesbian and gay community's senior members." The organization has over 3,000 members and includes a drop-in center for seniors, a mental health clinic, and case management services.

In related news, the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIn) has announced plans for a gathering of lesbian and gay

elders to be held in Orlando, FL, in March 1999 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society on aging. Organizers hope to bring together gay and lesbian elders over age 60 to discuss their personal experiences regarding issues such as caregiving and receiving, grandparenting, housing, professional choices, and bereavement. ▼

**The SAGE conference will be held 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on May 1-2 at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus, 113 W. 60th Street, New York, NY. For information or to register, call (212) 741-2247. For more info on LGAIn, contact Gerard Koskovich at ASA, 833 Market Street, Suite 511, SF, CA 94103; phone (415) 974-9641; e-mail gerardk@asa.saging.org.**

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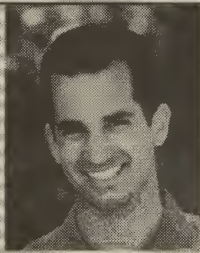
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# Take off your socks for your docs!

by Jeff Getty, ACT UP/  
Golden Gate Writers Pool

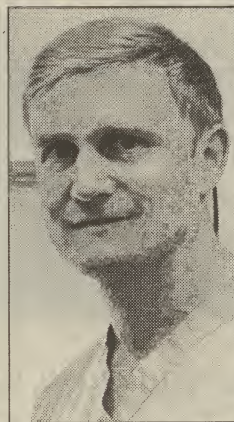
Ask any person with advanced HIV or AIDS about their feet and you will probably hear a litany of complaints ranging from ingrown hairs to rampant warts, fungus, and neuropathy. Not only are HIV-positive people's feet immune suppressed, they are also under increased strain because they are an extremity with less circulation, are trapped in stuffy shoes, and contain thousands of nerve endings.

Although feet have always been susceptible to toxicity and nerve damage, many primary care physicians fail to look at patient's feet on a regular basis. Many patients also find it easy to ignore early foot problems, but some foot afflictions can become dangerous and can lead to serious and harmful conditions even among healthy populations — and can be magnified and overwhelming for HIV-positive patients and their doctors.

Dr. Jon Tinkle is an HIV specialist podiatrist who recently edited *Clinics and Podiatric Surgery — HIV and the Lower Extremities*, a text by W.B. Saunders about HIV-positive foot complications and their remedies. He currently has a practice at Davies Hospital in San Francisco. Practicing in the heart of the AIDS epidemic, Tinkle has been in a unique position to see thousands of HIV-positive foot problems walk into his office over the years. A pleasant and unassuming individual, Tinkle says that he doesn't like to step on other people's toes, but many times primary care HIV doctors ignore their patient's foot problems until the situation becomes far too serious. Often, HIV and AIDS patients never even remove their socks for physicals and routine follow-ups.

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Dr. Jon Tinkle

HIV-related foot problems are best treated when caught early, and are widespread. Although Tinkle has never heard of any study done to measure this, he suspects that between 70 percent and 80 percent of both HIV and AIDS patients have foot problems that need attention. And as HIV disease progresses, foot ailments worsen as well.

### Neuropathy: the nerve!

Few podiatrists specialize in HIV, let alone know how to treat the complications aggressively. The key to better foot health. To that end, he travels around the country lecturing other doctors in the field. One of the more important topics he addresses, and one of the more common foot problems he encounters, is neuropathy.

The nerve pain of neuropathy can be caused by drugs, by secondary infections such as CMV, or by the HIV virus itself. Tinkle says that people with the condition should first try to determine the cause of the pain, to see if a change in medications is in order. The next step is to begin physical therapy, including massage and acupuncture. He is particularly fond of micro current and its newer version, called the "H-wave." Studies in New York have shown favorable results with H-wave treatment, which is something like electrical acupuncture, requiring an about an hour a day.

When treating the symptoms of neuropathy, Tinkle prefers not to add more drugs to treat nerve pain — after all, it's drug toxicity that most likely caused the problems in the first place. He does recommend vitamin B, but said he has not seen many results from nerve growth factor as of yet.

Lowering viral load does not seem to take neuropathy away in the feet. Higher stress levels, however, do seem to increase it.

### No fun in fungus

Another common foot problem is fungus. This tends to get worse as immunity is diminished. It is first seen in discoloration of the nail plate as well as nail thickening. Doctors treat this by first cutting down the nail and then adding a topical antifungal. Tinkle prefers Nixoral shampoo on fungus nails because it seems to

penetrate deeper. If fungus problems have grown serious, he also treats with Lamisil and Sporanox oral medications.

Warts on the feet, caused by strains of Human Papilloma virus (HPV), are called Planters warts. These little devils can become very resistant and hard to treat. They also indicate that the patient is HPV-positive. Although different from the other HPV strains, which cause genital and other skin area warts, all other infectable parts of the body should be inspected for warts as well. The current treatments include cutting them off, burning them with acids, and freezing them. (It seems only the Spanish Inquisition knew how to treat warts.)

According to Tinkle, there are two types of Planters warts: single warts or small size, and the dreaded mosaic; they can get very large and are hard to get rid of. Recently Tinkle and other have begun using bleomycin — a chemotherapy drug — injected directly into the wart. But even with the best treatments, they can come back.

Tinkle warns that a very common place to catch these warts are public showers at gyms. HPV can live in wet areas and are very contagious. "I owe a lot of my business to that gym's shower over on Market Street," he remarked. He recommends wearing sandals or flip-flops to avoid catching the wart virus on the feet.

### Measuring trouble by the foot

KS is often first detected around the feet, and can look like a bruise or bug bite. Anything that looks new and unusual should be shown to your doctor. When skin lesions appear there could also be internal lesions. Regular foot inspections could lead to early KS detection.

Bone tumors and fractures can cause pain and changes in foot appearance and structure, even leading to tumors. Mostly these tumors are benign; sometimes they need surgery. These are fairly rare problems, but more are seen in HIV-positive populations.

As T-cells drop, the soles of the feet get increasingly dry, a problem that can also result from drugs. Because that dryness can lead to cracking and infections in the feet, Tinkle says it is important to use moisturizer on the bottom of the feet.

Heel pain can be more chronic in people with HIV, especially during seroconversion. Muscle bands around the heel will tighten up, caused by body aches. "We use a special support if it is not just a transient problem," Tinkle remarked.

Last, but not least, ingrown nails are the number one problem for HIV-positive patients. No one is quite sure whether they are caused by drugs or HIV. The best treatment is to first cut the nail away from the infected skin. Tinkle notes that topical creams don't work well at all. Ingrown nails may not become serious and can clear up on their own, but if they persist beyond three days to a weeks, see a doctor.

No kidding: infected nails, if let go too long, can lead to a bone infection. The treatment for this complication is IV drug therapy — and possibly amputation. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.





# Sonoma County seeks reinstatement of AEF

by Lois Pearlman

A newly formed Sonoma County coalition plans to plead its case for reinstatement of AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) grants at the San Francisco organization's board meeting next month.

Armed with a fundraising plan that includes the return of the Rivers Cup canoe race and regatta, the coalition hopes to convince board members that it can raise the required matching funds to restore grants for some 220 people with AIDS in Sonoma County.

"I think we've put together a viable fundraising plan," said Betsy Van Dyke, chair of the coalition, known as the AIDS Emergency Fund/Sonoma County. "We are all committed to seeing this through, at least through the next year."

What's at stake for Sonoma County is a program that has been providing yearly \$500 emergency grants to PWAs for at least a decade.

At the beginning of February, AEF cut off grant money to six of the ten counties it had been serving, including Sonoma, Solano, Napa, Contra Costa, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. The organization continues to offer grants to people with AIDS in San Francisco, Napa, and San Mateo Counties

utilizing federal Ryan White funds, as well as to Alameda County under a special contract. Concerned that the withdrawal of the \$500 emergency grants would be a significant loss for local PWAs, AIDS activists in Sonoma County invited AEF board members to a community meeting in Sebastopol February 25 to discuss the problem.

At that meeting, AEF vice president Ken Turner said his organization was willing to provide grants for any county that could pay 65 percent of the costs.

In a telephone interview last week, Turner guaranteed that the offer is still good.

"We stand fully ready to fund their program at 35 percent," he said. "We'll be thrilled to serve those 220 people up there."

For its part, the members of the Sonoma County coalition have been meeting regularly to line up a program of potential funding sources for the 65 percent match.

At the top of the list is the resurrection of the once popular Rivers Cup, an all-day event featuring a canoe race, a regatta of creatively decorated canoes, live entertainment, and dancing. The event is set for August 22, with a Rivers Cup dance scheduled for August 21.

In the past, the Rivers Cup has been a big money maker for local

AIDS organizations.

Guerneville bar owner Bob Brunson, who is spearheading the organizing committee, is negotiating for a big name star to headline the event. Clos du Bois Winery in Geyserville has already agreed to be a sponsor, and the Russian River Chamber of Commerce will provide the tax deductible status.

"We know that the community really wants the Rivers Cup back," Brunson said.

But this is not the only fundraising event on tap. Earlier this month the coalition netted its first \$1,000 at a special showing of the film *Ma Vie En Rose*, held at the Rio Theater in Monte Rio. The group is also expecting a donation of \$5,000 from the proceeds of the Bears weekend, which will be held at the Russian River's gay resorts later this summer.

The coalition also plans to seek additional funding from a variety of public and private agencies, including the Sonoma County AIDS Foundation, to which it has already presented a proposal for \$10,000.

The group has set up its own bank account under the umbrella of Face to Face, the county's largest AIDS services organization.

If the Sonoma County coalition can convince AEF that it is good for the money, emergency grants could be reinstated retroactive to February 1, Turner said. ▼

## Bodybuilding

◀ page 14

steroids. Whatever. It doesn't mean they are criminals. Everywhere it's a competitive support. When you have to win, you have to win."

### Roman knows

Flavio Baccanini may be a familiar face to World Gym members. As a young police officer in the '70s in his native city of Rome, he began weight training to help judo. "I started lifting, not knowing what I was doing. In six months my body totally changed."

He started getting more serious, and soon became famous in Italy, winning the Italian and European championships in 1983.

After moving to New York City, his dreams of becoming a famous bodybuilder were nearly crushed. "New York was a totally different experience," he says of those days spent working as a pizzeria dishwasher.

Some of his pals convinced him to compete again. He did a few shows as an amateur, and did very well, but "my dream was to go pro. It's a very hard thing to be a pro. These guys are very, very big."

At 4'10", Baccanini breaks boundaries of height, being the shortest — yet most successful — in his class. After seven years, he roughed it out trying to get a pro card. In 1991, after also moving to California, he did a pro show in San Jose and again did well.

He says he enjoys being a trainer "to motivate people. If they want to accomplish more faster results, it's easier to come to the gym knowing I'm waiting for them." Wouldn't you train faster with an Italian bodybuilder waiting for you?

### Size isn't everything

Naturally, Flavio has gym pals

and clients rooting for him, and stands to do well as a local favorite. He understands the difficulty of competing in the modern physique world.

Despite the transformative nature of bodybuilding, and the positive effects of weight training for just about anyone, Baccanini says, "It's down to the genetics of the person. It's all down to the way you train and the way your body's built, the way your body responds to the exercise."

He doesn't like some aspects of bodybuilding competitions, where size is judged more important than form. "It's not very fair. That's why a lot of them give up. You do so much work and don't get recognized. It happened to me so many times. I thought I looked incredible, but they wanna see the bigger guy."

Thus, Baccanini has become an inspiration for shorter people. "I prove that anybody can get up there. I'm the lightest and smallest." He weighed 140 pounds at the Mister Olympia. "I look 180 because of the way my muscles are shaped, the form."

Conditioning before a show is "a lot of stress," he said, "mental and physical, but if you keep yourself in shape, it can work. I don't think you should have to suffer like some people. It's a lifestyle, not just the 20 minutes where you show yourself off to the world." ▼

**The Tribestan Pro Invitational is this Saturday, May 2 at Maritime Hall, located at 450 Harrison Street in San Francisco. The related San Francisco Fitness Expo opens at 12 p.m., showcasing event sponsors' products. Judging begins at 2 p.m. with tickets at \$25 & \$35, and finals at 8 p.m., with tickets at \$45, \$65, and (for VIPs) \$90. To order tickets, call 1-800-290-5112.**

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Kevin Curtis Howard**  
May 31, 1961 — Jan. 19, 1998



Peter Pan has gone back to Never-Never-Land. A longtime resident of Tracy, Calif., Kevin Curtis Howard moved on to a higher plane at Pleasant Hill, Calif., on January 19. He succumbed to complications from liver cancer after a 10-year battle with AIDS. He was 36.

Kevin was the manager of Network Services/New Products for Pacific Bell for 18 years, and leaves behind many close friends and associates. He lived his life to the fullest as a sprite and enjoyed everything life had to offer. He touched many lives. He was a member of GALEMAS and was involved with many AIDS benefits in the Bay Area.

Kevin is survived by his loving partner and caregiver, Patrick O'Leary of Pleasant Hill; parents, Curt and Beve Howard of Tracy; sister, Shawn Harris of Pleasanton; grandmother, Dorothy Hepburn of Tracy; and a large extended family and many friends in the Bay Area. Services were held at his parents' home in Tracy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to AIDS organizations or trees planted in the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

**Leslie Arthur King**  
Jan. 1, 1928 — April 21, 1998

Change was his mistress/Love could not hold him/Duty forged no chain.  
The wide seas and mountains called him/And dawn found his campfire in the rain.



He was 70.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Leslie moved to Pleasant Hill nine months ago from Daly City. In his youth, he was a cattle drover in Australia, and traveled to Samoa and Fiji before going to work for the Swedish Lines as a steward. He moved to San Francisco in 1953.

Leslie is survived by his brother and caregiver, Patrick O'Leary of Pleasant Hill; niece and nephew, Maureen and Ian Watts of Sydney; their children; and many friends in the Bay Area. Private services are to be held along with burial in Australia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Diablo Valley AIDS Center, 2490-G Arnold Industrial Parkway, Concord, Calif. 94520 or trees planted in the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

**William L. May**  
April 8, 1934 — April 18, 1998



Bill May died of complications from emphysema and congestive heart failure on Saturday, April 18, surrounded by his family and friends.

Bill was a founding member of the Society for Individual Rights and the first editor of its publication, *Vector*. When Jim Foster formed the Alice B. Toklas Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club from the S.I.R. Political Committee, Bill was one of the club's original members and served as its vice president. Around the same time, he helped form the Council on Religion and the Homosexual.

Bill was the recipient of many awards and commendations for service to his community. Following his appointment to the San Francisco Mental Health Advisory Board by Dianne Feinstein, he was particularly concerned with children's mental health services and programs to help those with mental health problems incarcerated in jails and prisons. He was also a member of the San Francisco General Hospital Advisory Board, Council on Children, and Citizens Advisory Board to the San Francisco School Board. He was a founder of the Forensic Psychiatric Advisory Board.

Bill is survived by his longtime companion and wife, Nancy; two sons, John and Gregory; and his beloved friend, Ken Johnson. A gathering of Bill's

friends is planned for Saturday, May 9, in San Francisco. For details, please call Ken Johnson at 925-827-1510.

**James Edward Nagy**  
May 2, 1968 — Oct. 7, 1997



James Edward Nagy, 29, died October 7 in San Francisco. He was born in Columbia, S.C.

James was creative and talented. In 1987, he made his movie debut in *Dirty Dancing* as a

dance extra. He said, "It was the most fun I've ever had in my life."

James loved life and enjoyed it to its fullest. He had an incredible ability to affect everyone he met with his smile and sense of humor.

While losing James is painful, we know that there is much to be thankful for. We give thanks to the Great Spirit for letting us know and love James as a companion in our journey on earth — and for always making us laugh.

Memorial donations may be made to The Family Link, 317 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Jerry Terranova**  
Feb. 11, 1949 — April 22, 1998



Jerry died at Maitri Hospice of AIDS-related lymphoma on Wednesday, April 22. He was surrounded by friends from his years as an actor, artist and author.

Jerry graduated from Rutgers University in 1971 and moved to San Francisco in 1972. He was involved in many theatre groups, including the Julian Theater, and was the male lead in Curt McDowell's film, *Sparkle's Tavern* (1976).

In 1978, Jerry moved to Los Angeles, where he appeared in many plays and improvisational workshops. He was also editor of the newsletters *Lifelines*, *Passageways*, *Praxis* and *Pacific Currents*, and a founder of the alternative AIDS group *CureNow*. He had articles published in *Yoga Journal*, *Quest* and in the essay collection, *From a Burning House*, published by the AIDS Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop.

Jerry is survived by his mother and father, Jean and Roland Terranova; sisters, Elaine and Linda; brother, Doug; brother-in-law, Phil; and friends Janet DiGiovanna and Danny Rubenstein, Craig Bryars, Tom Mayer, Tom Ammianno, Richard Bradley, Paul Munson and many others. Memorial donations should be made to the Maitri Hospice, 401 Duboce, San Francisco, CA 94117.

## Exchanging blows over needles

by Bob Roehr

Needle exchange will not go away, despite the fondest wishes of the Clinton administration to click its heels together and make it so. Protests are dogging those heels at locations throughout the country, legislation is percolating through Congress, and its own troops are restless.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala traveled to the University of California, Berkeley on April 24 to participate in the inauguration of their new Chancellor. [See story, facing page.]

Three days and a continent away, about 200 protesters jeered Shalala at an April 27 public appearance at Bryn Mawr, outside of Philadelphia. The disruption lasted for about 15 minutes before the group left to continue demonstrating outside the building.

Manhattan was the next site. President Clinton, headlining another omnivorous political fund raising event, drew about 50 people on short notice to protest outside the hotel on April 28.

Protests are planned in Washington and other cities as leading administration officials make public appearances. Lanier is en-

couraged by this "growing drumbeat," a "new level of activism" which is bringing in increasing numbers of people of color.

Support for needle exchange has also come in other ways. Financier/philanthropist George Soros announced that he will make another \$1 million available to the Lindesmith Center to fund needle exchange. Those grants require a match by other contributors.

### Congress butts in

New York Republican Gerald Solomon introduced a bill (HR 3717) last Thursday, April 23 that would prohibit use of any federal funds "directly or indirectly" for needle exchange programs. It carried the co-sponsorship of four other members of the House.

The following day the Congressional Black Caucus called on the president to reverse his decision and to fund needle exchange programs. It also urged him to fire Drug Czar McCaffrey, a major source of opposition within the White House.

The Solomon bill raced to a Wednesday, April 29 vote on the floor of the House. After several hours of heated debate the measure passed 287-140. The "No" vote dropped by 18 when compared to a similar measure last

fall. A handful of Republicans switched their votes, as did more than a dozen Democrats. The number is significant because 146 votes are needed to sustain a presidential veto.

Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, attributed the shift to "the indecisiveness and weakness from the White House, which Congress took as an engraved invitation to further politicize the issue."

"It's all about the Senate now," he said, "It makes it harder." He hopes that Senator Ted Kennedy's (D-Massachusetts) willingness to filibuster over the issue might preclude it even being scheduled for a vote. Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) "has been great," Zingale said. "[Tennessee Republican Bill] Frist could be key. I think he understands where the science is on this issue." As the only physician in the Senate, his voice carries great weight on medical issues.

Mike Shriver, policy director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), marveled at "an administration that is so schizophrenic," split between the science and faith. "This is one of the darkest days we have ever experienced. I can't see any change in this policy without a change in drug control policy." ▼





ACT UP/GG's Hank Wilson lets loose with some vitriol aimed at Donna Shalala just prior to his April 24 arrest.

## AIDS activists arrested at Berkeley Shalala demo

by Cynthia Laird

Two ACT UP/Golden Gate activists were arrested by University of California, Berkeley police last Friday, April 24 as they interrupted U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala's keynote address at the inauguration of Chancellor Robert M. Berdahl. Hank Wilson and Michael Lauro were cited and released after the disruption, during which both denounced Shalala's announcement earlier in the week surrounding needle exchange and the decision not to allow federal funding for such programs that have proven to reduce the spread of HIV without increasing illegal drug use.

A third person, Bryan Kutner of Berkeley, was also arrested. All three men were charged with trespassing and disturbing the peace before being released, according to Lauro.

Before the arrests, an estimated 40 people held a demonstration outside Zellerbach Auditorium to protest Shalala's announcement. The rally was organized by ACT UP/East Bay and featured speakers from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, ACT UP/Golden Gate, and East Bay political leaders. Inside the auditorium, the activists who got in patiently waited during several processions. Then the shouting began.

"How many more people have to die?" screamed Lauro before he was dragged from the auditorium by officers.

Shalala had just started delivering her remarks when the commotion got underway. She briefly stopped speaking and then veered from her prepared speech to com-

ment indirectly to the activists that she would not give up until there is a vaccine for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Just then, another voice filled the auditorium.

"Do it. Where's your courage? Your talk is killing people. Needle exchange saves lives," shouted Wilson. He was led away by police, who had to go to an upstairs balcony where he was sitting.

Members of the audience booed their displeasure at having the campus ceremony interrupted; in addition to celebrating Berdahl's inauguration, the university was also marking the 130th anniversary of its founding and the hall was full of decorated students and faculty members as well as academics.

Shalala returned to her speech, and drew laughter from the crowd when she said, "When Mark O'Meara won the Masters a couple of weeks ago, Tiger Woods slipped the Green Jacket on him and said, 'You deserve it.' Now, in Washington when you hear someone say, 'You deserve it,' it usually means two things. First, you better duck. And, second, don't bother reading tomorrow's newspaper."

Shalala also talked about the importance of research, an irony in view of the Clinton administration's decision on needle exchange. "No one believes in the importance of supporting research and discovery — the creation of knowledge — more than we do," she said. "We have long advocated greater scientific literacy for all Americans."

During the demonstration, several activists and political leaders called on Shalala to allow federal funding for needle exchange. Some called for her resignation

and that of retired General Barry McCaffrey, President Clinton's drug czar.

"This administration really ticks me off," said Oakland City Councilman Nate Miley. "This is the same administration that is shutting down cannabis clubs."

Added Matthew Sharp, of ACT UP/Golden Gate, "Clinton acknowledged this research [on needle exchange] and then turned his back. It's shameful politics and it's murdering people." ▼

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## Concord House opens doors

by Vicky Kolakowski

East Bay nonprofit housing developer Resources for Community Development (RCD) will hold a celebration this Saturday, May 2 from 12-1:30 p.m. to honor the opening of their newest project. The facility, named Concord House, is located at 20373 Concord Avenue in Hayward.

Concord House will provide eight fully-accessible suites for

very low-income homeless people living with AIDS. It is the fourth project in RCD's "East Bay AIDS Housing Initiative," a series of developments to provide high quality facilities for low-income and homeless people with AIDS.

RCD is requesting donations of books for the Concord House resident library. ▼

For more info, call Allison Kirk of RCD at (510) 841-4410.



# Bridge of size

by Jim Provenzano

**B**ridge, a sport? Alan Carpenter thinks it's funny, too. In fact, even online, when he tells guys he's going to Gay Games and they ask what sport he's competing in, his response, "Bridge," always gets either a "?" or a "LOL" (Laughing Out Loud).

It's no wonder. Card games are not usually put in the same category as soccer or swimming, that's for sure. But Gay Games V is definitely going to be a different sort of event, and Bridge will bring even more people into the fold of the Games' theme: friendship. And what better social event than bridge?

Almost 200 people are registered for the queen of card games. Participants should enter in pairs, and competition will take place with the International Rules. One of the hopes of Gay Games organizers is that in the event of rain, indoor events like Bridge will ... well ... bridge the gap between other events.

But it's more than four folks sitting around a table gossiping about the neighbors while tossing a few cards around. Tournament bridge is requires a lot of concentration, skill, and experience.

Carpenter explained some of the differences between social bridge and tournament bridge. He's the point guy for regular meetings of gay bridge players.

In tournament bridge, he said, "The cards are duplicated so that everyone winds up playing the same cards. People are scored comparatively. The luck of getting four aces are less because the guy next to you may have the same cards."

Carpenter is aware of the personal nature of the bridge, and doesn't expect much of an audience. "Unless you're at the top

level of bridge there's no cheerleading section. It's a private game."

Meanwhile, as the Games approach, he laughed, "We keep getting requests for when we have 'practices.' This whole language doesn't apply to us."

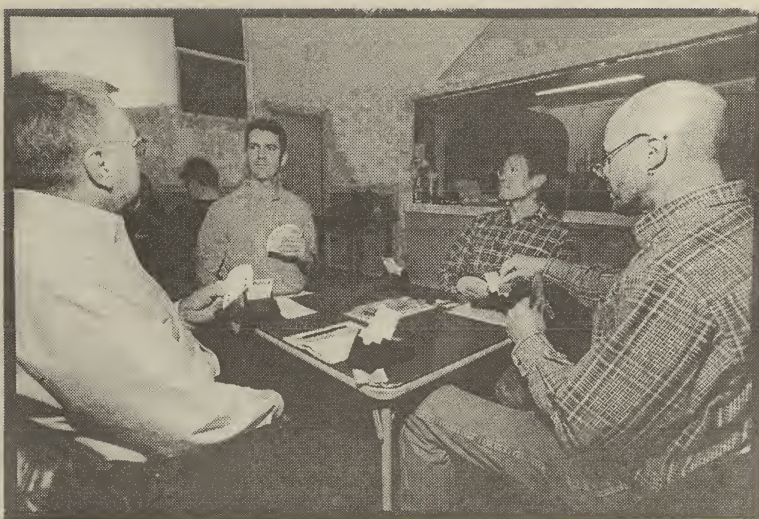
But getting together for a good time is.

There are weekly club games with his group, and sectionals a few times a month in different cities. Berkeley and Richmond have other clubs, all of which are organized through the American Contract Bridge League.

## Got rubbers?

Carpenter recently competed in a tournament in Reno called Spring Nationals. His website publishes results of tournaments.

His parents were avid bridge players, and he learned from them, as well as from a friend in high school in the suburbs of Chicago. "It's been pretty steady throughout my life," he said. "I don't think I'd ever let it go. I've always been playing some form or



Looking for tricks (l to r): Richard Bellerose, Alan Carpenter, Tony Lee and Bob Hayn.

another

A lot of sexual double-entendres "rise" up when discussing bridge, which Carpenter thinks is funny. The object is to pick up "tricks" (even the name of the local club is Quick Tricks), there are constant references to "rubbers," partners frequently complement each other for having a "good hand," and in the carding system unique to the game, players are asked if they "play upside down."

Seriously, though, bridge has long been the card game of royalty and well-mannered folk who wouldn't be caught dead conversing about rubbers in any other situation. Think of film actor Omar Sharif, for example: he was a big

bridge professional, and the author of syndicated columns on bridge tips for years, and someone who (for most of us, anyway) cannot be imagined, um, upside down.

## A day of seeding

Like some other participants, Carpenter has a few concerns about the set-up for his event in Amsterdam. "The way they're organizing the bridge makes it clear they are not put together by someone who plays bridge avidly."

Carpenter even sent a detailed packet with a recommended ways to structure the tournament, but nobly shrugs, "They chose a different route." The way it's set up there's a day of seeding, where placement is determined. On subsequent days, they'll play a "flighted" tournament. People in different levels are slotted to compete with each other, and not with those above or below their skill level.

In North America people usually compete from Experienced to Novice Stratification. "You play against all levels," he said, "but you

get handicapped, or extra points," depending on the situation.

There are some other very good players from San Francisco that are thinking of going, and of course Carpenter is enthusiastic, despite the difference in structure. In fact, he said, despite organizers rejecting his suggestions, "I think their idea will be simpler to implement, and will probably be less stressful."

And for folks who may suffer from jock overload, a few rounds of bridge will be a relaxing antidote. ▼

**Quick Tricks plays bridge Monday nights from 7-10:30 p.m. on the second floor of Metropolitan Community Church, on Eureka at 18th Street in the Castro. For Internet updates on bridge in the bay area, go to <http://www.dnai.com/~dealer/sf/welcom.html> For the latest information on duplicate bridge in San Francisco, including club games and unit game schedules, call the Bridge Hotline at (415)-248-1899.**

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The HIV Counseling and Testing Service (HC&T) Program of the UCSF AIDS Health Project is funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, AIDS Office, and donations.

## AMSTERDAM UPDATE

### Medaling in the affairs of Gay Games

by Nellie Voss and Paul van Yperen

**A**ll medals that people have brought home from Gay Games are naturally special, but the ones given out in Amsterdam this August will be particularly remarkable. The selection committee for the medal design (comprised of both the sports and cultural programs organizers) unanimously selected Marcel Wanders to design the 24,500 medals that will be presented during Gay Games Amsterdam 1998.

Because participation is more important than winning at Gay Games, all of the 15,000 expected participants at Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will receive a Participant's Medal. Furthermore, participants can win medals on many levels and in different age categories. Winners of the 30 sports tournaments will receive a total amount of 9,500 bronze, silver, and gold medals.

Wanders's designs have been selected for the design collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and The Stedelijk Museum for Modern Art in Amsterdam, among others. His firm, Wanders Wonders, has also won a great number of awards including the Rotterdamse Designprijs (prize of the public), a honorable mention at Compasso d'Oro, and the Kho Liang Lianmoediging-sprijs. Works of Wanders Wonders have been published in leading design magazines like *Domus*, *Intern*, *Items*, and *Bleuprint en Design Report*.

Marcel Wanders, born in 1963, calls the Gay Games medals "a great assignment" because of the enormous size of the order, but also because of the chance to design medals for an international sports event from a "modern" viewpoint.

The Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst (The Amsterdam Foundation for the Arts) granted a subsidy of dfl 35,000 (\$17,500) for the design competition. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## LYRIC

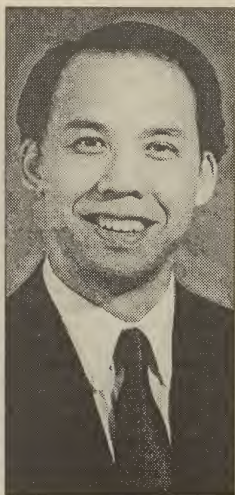
◀ page 1

bureau, and a mentoring program. LYRIC also sponsors the annual "Young, Loud, and Proud" youth leadership conference.

Dave Wharton, LYRIC's board chair, praised Cheu's selection, saying, "Mr. Cheu will bring with him a wealth of experience in dealing with youth issues in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community that will enable LYRIC to continue its essential role in providing services to these young people."

Cheu comes to LYRIC from the Human Rights Commission, where he worked in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV Unit. There, he coordinated the city's first public hearing on the needs of queer and questioning youth and created the final draft of the San Francisco Unified School District's extensive resolution protecting queer youth. He also investigated and mediated discrimination claims based on HIV status, sexual orientation and gender identity, and enforced the city's landmark domestic partner benefits law that requires companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offer the benefits to spouses.

The decision to leave the HRC for a youth-oriented nonprofit agency was based in part on the work Cheu did for the commission. "From my work with queer youth at the commission, I was excited to work more directly with young people as a direct service provider," Cheu told the B.A.R. "It's exciting now to be in a position to ensure all queer youth achieve their fullest



LYRIC's Brian Cheu

potential."

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Cheu graduated from Stanford University and Columbia Law School. He is a board member and former board co-chair of the LIFE Lobby, California's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV lobby. Cheu also served as a co-chair of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) and was a past board chair of Community United Against Violence (CUAV). He received the Bar Association of San Francisco's award for achievement in lesbian and gay civil rights. ▼

For more information about LYRIC's programs, call (415) 703-6150.

## SFAF's Gay Life

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too)" path to prevention, the SFAF's new tack is a less pedantic, more holistic appeal to the modern gay man who slips now and then, the guy who wants to be more in touch with his emotions and understand what motivates him to have occasional unsafe sex.

"It's about getting at the feelings that drive your behavior," says Rene Durazzo, deputy director of programs at SFAF, who set the new prevention project in motion and oversees its implementation. "Gay Life was constructed in appreciation for the fact that men's whole lives impact their sexual decision making."

## Focus on fucking no more

Gay Life organizers and participants see the program as the hottest thing going in AIDS prevention, even as the climate for new AIDS infections in the city gradually cools.

Part of the problem with the SFAF's prior emphasis on condom use as the key to HIV prevention, says Gay Life Manager Joe Headlee, is that after the "use a condom every time" message got stale, people started saying, "We don't want to hear it."

"Our former ways of prevention focused on sex, on the sexual act itself," adds Derek Gordon, communications director at SFAF. Now, to better address gay men's health needs in the city's changing AIDS climate, his organization is shifting gears: "Instead of focusing on just fucking, we're now focused on the whole guy and what he brings to that moment when he decides whether to use a condom or not."

Not surprisingly, in a city rife with AIDS activists with strong opinions and axes to grind about the SFAF, a few critics pooh pooh Gay Life, claiming it duplicates existing efforts more ably carried out by smaller AIDS service organizations, misallocates funds, and adds a new layer of bureaucracy on an already monolithic organization.

The program is funded for one year, continuing through June, with \$505,721 in city moneys. Roughly an equal amount will come from SFAF's coffers. The agency expects to serve nearly 1,300 clients in that period, and to continue the program indefinitely beyond the initial year.

"Sometimes it seems like the AIDS Foundation is trying to be the Microsoft of AIDS service organizations," says Steven LeBlanc of ACT UP/Golden Gate. "Now they're going to try to run social gatherings even though we already have grassroots groups doing that."

In fact, one of those groups, the Stop AIDS Project, at least publicly embraces Gay Life's arrival on the San Francisco scene. "There are about 43,000 gay men in this town, and the need to provide ongoing prevention is much greater than our agency can currently meet," says Stop AIDS Education Director Dan Wohlfeiler. "So there simply is no issue of duplication. There's a ton of work to do, and we really welcome other efforts that complement what we do."

## Based on UCSF study

A lot of queer folk in the city haven't yet heard of Gay Life, and many who have don't quite know what to make of it. Most everyone would likely agree, however, that any new prevention effort by the local Big Daddy of AIDS service organizations is a good thing.

They'd ask only, "Why did it take so long?"

The answer, says Durazzo, is that until recently, no reliable, in-depth data existed to guide the development of new prevention efforts.

"We did not have good information around the context in which men were living their lives and making sexual decisions in the '90s," he said. "We were relying on data that was collected at a different point of the epidemic."

Durazzo points proudly to an in-depth Qualitative Interview Study he and his colleagues commissioned two years ago from the University of California at San Francisco, the results of which underpin every aspect of Gay Life.

That recently concluded study, carried out in two phases by investigators at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), showed, among other findings, that despite being well aware of the risks of unsafe sex, and knowledgeable about ways to prevent HIV infection, many gay and bisexual San Francisco men nevertheless engage in unprotected anal sex.

The study surveyed nearly 200 gay and bisexual men, ages 25-50, primarily African-American, Latino, and white. They represented two fairly distinct groups, those who lead marginalized lives in the Tenderloin and 6th Street south of Market area, and those who lead more middle-class lives in and around the Castro neighborhood.

"The good news is we're not seeing 8,000 new infections a year like we were in the '80s," says Durazzo. "We're seeing 499 new infections a year, which is way down, but still too many. And most of those, about 350 a year, are happening among gay men."

Moreover, adds Durazzo, "when you look at who's getting infected in San Francisco, the typical age is a guy in his early 30s, which I think is a little-known fact."

## Campaign in May

As evidence of the need for Gay Life, Durazzo points to the changing context of the AIDS epidemic in gay men's lives. While those already exposed to the virus are living longer and enjoying more productive lives, he notes, those now most at risk from new HIV infections come primarily from two subcultures particularly resistant to behavioral change, namely those who exchange sex for drugs, and those heavy into getting high and having sex on crystal meth.

HIV has become "a backburner issue" for a lot of gay men, Durazzo notes. Participants in the CAPS study "expressed a lot less concern about infection and the use of condoms." Clearly there was a psychological shift happening among gay men, and if the SFAF "is going to remain relevant and influential and supportive and responsive, we needed to change with the men."

Men who knowingly engage in high-risk sex, the researchers concluded, do so partly "in an attempt to fulfill or solve, in escapist-like fashion, a non-sexual need or personal difficulty" such as "feelings of social isolation, disappointed love, longing for intimacy, a sense of low self-worth, a need to affirm masculinity, or a wish to escape from the traumas of HIV."

Whatever Gay Life is or isn't, it is likely to burst onto the local gay scene with a bang beginning in May. That's when SFAF plans to roll out Gay Life's slick, high-profile publicity campaign.

Designed gratis by renowned advertising agency Anderson & Lemcke, Gay Life T-shirts, posters, promotions, and website will attempt to lure gay men, whether negative or positive, middle-class or disenfranchised, black, white, Latino, Asian, or "other," into one or more of the program's five main areas.

Open to all, Gay Life offers forums, "high-concept" social events, one-on-one and couples counseling sessions, and a "Black Brothers Esteem" group serving African-American gay and bisexual men.

"We've already had a couple of barebacking workshops where we've gotten 10-12 guys in a room for a whole day," says Headlee. "We're rolling out another one called 'Gay Culture,' a 10-part series talking about things like the history of the community, the pursuit of fabulousness, divas, and that sort of thing. That's one layer, and the biggest layer is the events, which promote awareness of the program."

One participant in Gay Life, Thomas Hughes, said the program has helped him stay off crystal, alcohol, poppers, and other drugs, a vital need if he is to remain HIV-negative.

Hughes, a bodybuilder who adheres to a vegetarian diet, says drinking and using drugs "didn't jive with my whole attempt to take care of my health as a 40-something man. When you use speed, you forget all about condoms and safe sex, even if they're sitting right there."

Hughes says he joined Gay Life "because I wanted to be a part of a support community. One of the things that happens with HIV-negative men is sometimes we feel we're not part of the action, that we don't get the services available to HIV-positive gay men." Some people, he notes, don't hesitate to have unsafe sex "because if they seroconvert, they know they've got a support group and there's all kinds of services available to them."

While such feelings did crop up in the CAPS study, affirms Durazzo, "by and large, the men in the sample didn't feel that way." What most expressed was a sense of being isolated and lonely, of discovering as they got older that their expectations of the gay community weren't being met.

Typical of such sentiments from study participants, according to Gordon, was one man who said, "I came to San Francisco as a young man, and it took me a long time to get used to the fact I was supposed to be objectified, and that I was supposed to be objectifying other men, because of my youth and beauty. And just when I got used to being objectified all the time, I got older, and no one was objectifying me anymore, and I didn't know what my role was. I didn't know what to do."

Getting to the heart of what troubles gay men today is the key to Gay Life, affirms Durazzo: "We have to respect that gay men have been living with this epidemic a long time, making conscious, logical decisions for their own lives. It was important for us to step back and refocus and resituate ourselves in relationship to those decisions, to be less health educators and more facilitators and supporters of men finding safe paces to self-reflect and sort through the decisions they want to make." ▼

For more information about Gay Life events, call (415) 788-LIFE, or visit the website at [www.gaylife.org](http://www.gaylife.org).

## LIFE Lobby

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considering a replacement for LIFE that will deal only with GLBT civil rights issues. They are counting on the large AIDS/HIV services in the state to organize a separate lobby for health issues, and Duran indicates that such discussions are beginning. AIDS Project LA had a full-time lobbyist in Sacramento until January, when the position became vacant. It has not yet been filled. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has done lobbying from its offices in San Francisco, but does not have a full-time presence in Sacramento now that LIFE Lobby is gone.

Lafaso expressed a hope that any new organization would continue to respond to a variety of voices. "Urban funding is okay, but the voices from the rural areas must be heard too. I don't think there is anyone in this day and age who thinks the only gays and lesbians whose vote depends on gay and lesbian issues live in San Francisco or Los Angeles."

McBride hopes that the new lobbying entity will include forums throughout the state that will draw in local representatives to air their views and visions, but without the unwieldy decision-making apparatus of the LIFE Lobby. And this time, it must be funded.

"People need to realize that if we are going to have a movement, we have to invest in our work at the state level," she said. "There are 38 gay and lesbian lobbies in the country, and all of them are critically under-funded, with the exception of Pride Agenda New York. Their budget is \$1.6 million. The combined budgets of the other 37 is only \$2.4 million. We

invest in what we care about. This work is critically important. It's 12 years since LIFE began. We have the network now. We have friends in the legislature. We have Sheila and Carole."

"Everybody involved cares passionately about having a gay and lesbian voice in Sacramento, but it must be one that fits the realities of the late '90s, of the changing face of AIDS and civil rights."

Echoing McBride's ideas, Duran hopes to see the new organization create a mode of communication similar to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change seminars. The meeting could happen once a year to discuss broad policy issues.

He said, "I don't know that it makes sense anymore to have 100 people come together every three months to argue and debate. On the big policy issues — marriage rights, child custody, job protection, housing — there was always consensus. It was only the internal politics that divided the delegates." Kuehl said, "I hope to see the new organization have geographical representation, but also geographical fundraising. Let the local representatives seek a place on the board with the expectation that they will have to raise money. You don't have to have monied connections, but you have to be willing to ask everybody, invest with spirit and with resources."

Of the changes now inevitable, Rand Martin concluded, "While some people may see this as a black day for the gay and lesbian and AIDS-affected communities, this is actually a very essential step in the ongoing evolution of our movement. We are always reinventing ourselves. We will shortly see a new organization rise to meet the needs of the community as we pass into the new millennium." ▼



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## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
NO 994259

In the Matter of the Application of James Leland Stoner. Order to show cause for change of name. The application of James Leland Stoner for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that James Leland Stoner has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to James Leland Stone. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 21st day of May, 1998 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of April 10, 1998.  
**APRIL 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

per of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of April 10, 1998.  
**APRIL 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO  
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
Date of Filing Application: April 02, 1998. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Il Barone Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2162-4 Larkin St. San Francisco CA 94109. For the following type of license: 41 ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE.  
**APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR  
CHANGE OF NAME NO 993776**

The application of Coleen R. Suguitan for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Coleen Suguitan has filed an application proposing that Coleen Suguitan name be changed to Coleen Regero Catu. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 1st of May 1998, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. Room 218. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of March 20, 1998.  
**APRIL 23, 30 MAY 1, 14, 1998**

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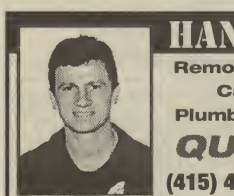
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**Chewing up the (virtual) scenery**  
Tilda Swinton plays the SFIFF in Lynn  
Hershman Leeson's 'Conceiving Ada.'  
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**Ayn it a shame?**  
'Ayn Rand - A Sense of  
Life' avoids philosophy.  
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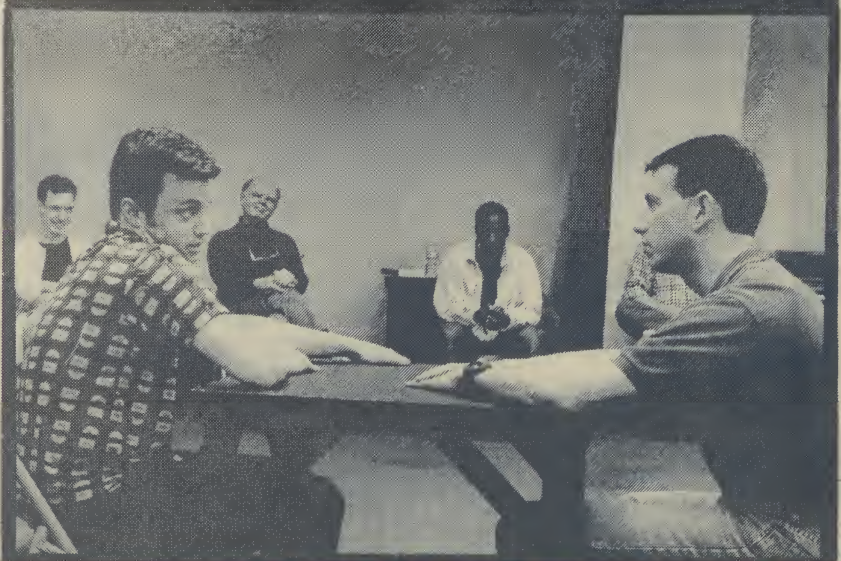
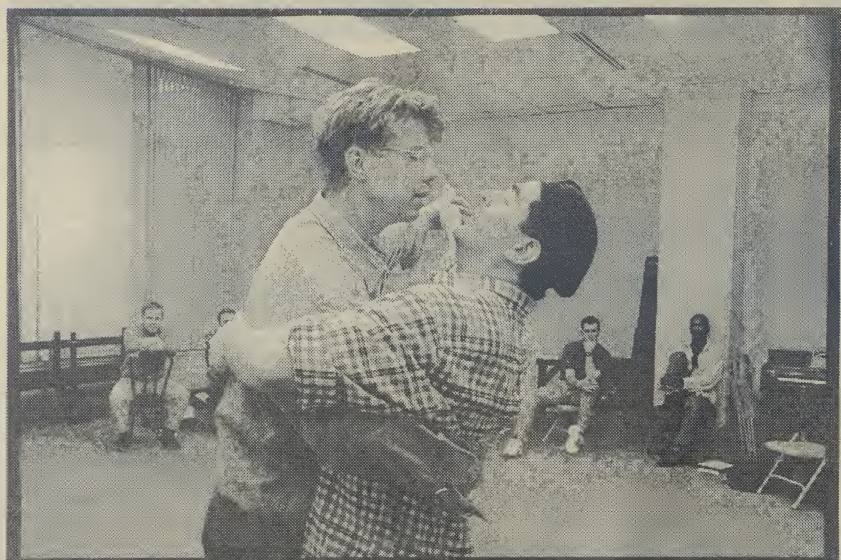
**Naked they came**  
David Leddick's 'The  
Male Nude' from Taschen.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 18 • 30 April 1998



## Making a scene

ACT adds a class in gay and lesbian theater

by Richard Dodds

**T**he teacher had a dream: an acting class in gay and lesbian theater that would attract equal parts straight and gay students. The straights would want the challenge of exploring different worlds. The gays and lesbians would be able to work on material that is close to the heart.

"I was idealistic," said Brent St. Clair, who suggested and is teaching the first gay and lesbian acting class in the American Conservatory Theater's Studio ACT program.

Following a recent session of the advanced-level course, most of the eleven students in class stayed to talk about their reasons for enrolling. But first they were polled. Was there anyone in the room willing to acknowledge their heterosexuality? No hands went up.

"I heard from other students who said, 'It sounds interesting, but I'm not gay.' They think it's OK for you to be gay, but they don't want to be confused as gay," St. Clair said. "But what happens if they get offered a gay role?"

From those who are enrolled, there emerged a consensus that the class provides a level of comfort that other acting classes don't usually have for the gay or lesbian actor.

"This class gives us a chance to do scenes you're not always comfortable doing in straight classes," said John Dixon. Of course, those other classes don't call themselves "straight." "Oh, but they are," said fellow student Faith Lubliner. "I think they're all stuck in *Angels in America* in terms of gay theater," St. Clair added. "We hate Sam Shepard," Michael Flanagan threw in.

Although the class is officially a "scene study course," there is a dollop of history, and even a hint of consciousness-raising.

"I wanted to see where we are and where we are going in terms of gay plays," Jeff Draper said. "Your perspective changes knowing that there is material," Flanagan added. "Until your voice is being heard, you feel invisible," said Lubliner, finishing the thought.

### A different take

It turns out that there is a heterosexual student in the class, who was out sick on this particular day. Reached later by phone, Elise Westbrook-Williams said she took the class because she "wanted a different take on a different culture. A great way to do that is through acting."

Westbrook-Williams, who works in ACT's Development and Community Affairs department, did a double take when she first heard about the class. "I said, 'Oh, my

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Scenes from ACT's gay & lesbian scene study class:  
Top, Michael Flanagan teaches a reluctant Barry Lloyd how to tango; center, Jeffrey Draper, John Dixon, and Lloyd Johnson; bottom, Blair Hartley and Markham Miller.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



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Old Havana, December 1995. Photography show by Rick Gerharter opens May 4, 7 p.m. at Mad Magda's.

by Roberto Friedman  
and François Truffe

Actor and author **Stephen Fry** was the man of the hour at the premiere of *Wilde* on Opening Night of the San Francisco International Film Festival last week, and in his brief remarks in front of the sell-out crowd, he was witty, biting, insightful, and understanding of the true spirit of **Oscar** in ways that the film never found. He issued a warning to all Californians of potentially shocking scenes in the film in which "a naked flame will touch the end of a cigarette. Yes, there is full frontal smoking in this film!"

à la Oscar, and with enough booze, delicious little nibbly things, and sensory stimulation to soften the heart of any jaded first-nighter or pass-holder. We especially enjoyed the faux French café and grooved to the sounds of the **Marcus Shelby Trio** while gorging on gumbo and bubbly. And *Islas Creek* out back of the warehouses never looked so romantic, with the moonlight bouncing on the polluted waters. Even the international types talking on their cell phones seemed like they were extras in a foreign film up on the Silver Screen.

But who was that **local film critic** seen rummaging through leftover **gift bags** on the audience seats back at the Castro, then later complaining that people left behind too much biscotti and not enough Belgian chocolate? Still later, the same scribe was seen sniffing around the free buffet spread at the press hospitality suite, and word is that she was well-fed.

### Havana gila

The photo opportunity we're most looking forward to is "Havana Panorama," a showing of **Rick Gerharter's** striking photographs of life in Cuba, at Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room on Hayes St. The palm-card shows a long-legged blonde woman strolling down a Havana street towards a vintage auto. "I'm a street photographer, so what's represented is what you see when you walk down the street," the long-time **BAR** photographer told *Out There*. "I also have photographs of friends. I know and feel comfortable with people there, and I think that intimacy comes through in the photos."

Gerharter's show of *Cuba* in San Francisco is a nice turnabout from his previous exhibit in Cuba

of photographs of gay San Francisco. "HomoFoto San Francisco" included scenes of gay life, street fairs, parades, sports, and AIDS care. That show was installed for a short time in a gallery at a very central location in Havana, right across from the park in the ice-cream-eating scene in *Strawberry and Chocolate*, "a favorite place for gay people to meet," Rick assures us. And we believe him.

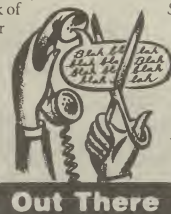
The theme of "Havana Panorama" has a more general focus than "HomoFoto," although Gerharter does include one image of a rainbow flag in the May Day Parade, proving once again that we are everywhere. Workers of the world, unwind.

### Those meaty pieces

We're always a few weeks behind getting through all those meaty pieces in the *New Yorker*, but we couldn't let **Nicholas Jenkins'** thorough remembrance of impresario **Lincoln Kirstein** go by without noting the following defense of the closet: "Although Kirstein found romance predominantly with men, his marriage to **Fidelma Cadmus**, the sister of **Paul Cadmus**, in 1941, had not been any sort of mistake or pragmatic bow to convention. ... But I don't think the binary of 'straight' and 'gay' interested Kirstein much, at least when I knew him."

As **Cher** from *Clueless* said, "What-ev-er," but then Jenkins' piece is illustrated by photos of the couple's Manhattan digs, replete with much decor of the type usually seen in the bedrooms of guest houses in Provincetown, if you know what we mean. We mean portraits of big nekkid men in the lurid fleshtones of hyper-

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Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde

Fry also made some cryptic remarks in the spirit of the superstition that if one bathes in the Nile, one will return to Egypt: "If you have your inner thigh licked while here, you will return to San Francisco!" Leave it to a Brit to come up with that kinky formulation.

If **Brian Gilbert's** film left a lot to be desired (such as any sense of Oscar Wilde the literary figure) and might more suitably have been titled *Bosie!*, it was in some respects a crowd-pleaser, and flashy enough for Opening Night. To our new friend with a cameo in the **SFIFF** trailer, acting out chatting up **Armistead Maupin** at *Tosca* (a heroic task, if ever there was one): baby, you're a star.

Custer Avenue Studios out in the industrial wasteland of India Basin was an inspired choice for the après-film party, spacious enough to accommodate the milling crowds, cleverly decorated



Lincoln and Fidelma in their swank Manhattan digs.

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## THEATRE

# Dyeing for the beat

by Deborah Peifer

Meg Mackay celebrates the release of her new CD, *Legally Blonde* (On Stage), with a concert and party at the Plush Room on May 4 at 8 p.m. After listening to the CD all week, I think that a party is not enough. A national holiday should be declared so everyone can take a day and revel in this gorgeous recording. Focusing on tunes made famous by blondes like Peggy Lee, Barbara Cook,



Meg Mackay

Judy Holliday, and Mary Martin, Mackay brings her extraordinary contralto to a decidedly mixed bag of songs, written by a host of artists ranging from Cole Porter to James Taylor; her stunning musicality makes the eclectic mix work superbly. You may never drink another latté once you've heard what Mackay has to sing

about "Black Coffee." "Sleepy Man" is a lullaby for a grown-up, sexy and very touching. "To My Children," based on an ethical will written by Rabbi Edgar F. Mangin, reminds us that the world is full of wonders: "laughter, Michelangelo's Moses, plenty of good books, the sweet sounds of music; I leave you laughter and baseball." *Legally Blonde* is a delight; it will make you cry a little and smile a lot. Don't miss it. For party reservations, call 885-2800.

## Just say no to stereotypes

"African-American men in the straight theatre," explains Colman Domingo, "seem to be limited to the angry black man; the bald black man; the angry and bald black man. In gay theatre, the black queen seems to be the only one to get any work at all." Domingo, co-founder of AFROBLUESOULPOWER, sees the company's new show, *Up Jumped Springtime*, at Theatre Rhino, as "the observation and exploration of the gay male African-American experience. We want to hear our voices and our stories on stage."

The show is adapted from stories included in *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*, and offers, Domingo continues, "a play that inspires, that involves various patterns and themes around the subject of African-American gay men." Domingo joins actors Da'Mon Vann and Brian Yates to inspire

32 different characters, and the result is "really funny, but it's also much more than that." *Up Jumped Springtime* runs May 7 through June 6. Rhino is located at 2926 16th St. Call 861-5079.

David Mills brings his solo show, *Duty Free*, to the Studio at Theatre Rhino. Compared to "Marga Gomez on steroids," *Duty Free* explores two stories: a lawsuit brought against big tobacco by a woman whose dog died of secondhand smoke; and the efforts of a local

artist to get recognition without having to take off his shirt or put on a dress. *Duty Free* runs through May 31.

## I feel like dancing...

The Department of Dance at SFSU presents *Substance*, which showcases the choreography and performance skills of graduating seniors. Here's a chance to see the Michael Bennett or George Balanchine of tomorrow at the ridiculously low price of \$5. For two nights only, May 1-2, at SFSU Creative Arts Building, 1600 Holloway. Call 338-2467 for info.

Intersection for the Arts (446 Valencia near 16th) presents an exploration of power and social ritual by Fifth Floor and Torque. Fifth Floor offers a video, *The Remoteness of the Goal*, while Torque performs *Intervista*, a dance-theatre piece. Both examine social mores and sexuality in new ways. May 7-17. Call 626-3311.

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# 'Deranged Durang' at Josie's Snack plays

by Richard Dodds

Christopher Durang may be best in small doses. The playwright's satirical blend of the absurd and the ridiculous is not easy to sustain, and a wacky premise can quickly pale without some emotional anchor to hold our attention. Fortunately, the current offering of Durang at Josie's is small-dose theatre, which not only befits the playwright, but also the venue.

*Deranged Durang* is made of up four short plays that more appropriately might be called sketches. Under Dirk Alphin's direction, the troupe at Josie's is more often than not able to find a fizz in the theatrical ditties, which charm in their unashamed silliness.

The program opens appropriately with "Mrs. Sorken," a character who offers a ladies-club lecture on the importance of theater that becomes a revealing stream-of-consciousness ramble. Kimberley MacLean doesn't really possess the character's white-gloved maturity, and there are comic moments misplaced, but the spirit is there, and so are many of the laughs.

"Homely women were always trying to kill me. It was flattering," says the looks-obsessed title character of "Nina in the Morning." Nina spends most of her time in front of the mirror, worrying about each wrinkle and sag, while



'Naomi in the Living Room,' part of *Deranged Durang*.

barking orders to her butler and disappointing children. Barbara Butler brings a wry flair to Nina, and Ryan Gowland handles well her variety of children.

"The Book of Leviticus Show" is both edgy and obvious, something you might see on *Saturday Night Live* on a better night. The show is a Ma-and-Pa cable access program on which Biblical pronouncements are carried out. For this episode, an adulteress and a homosexual have been kidnapped so they can be shot on the air by the merry hosts, effectively played by Gowland and MacLean.

The program ends with its strongest (and strangest) segment. The plot is inconsequential

to "Naomi in the Living Room," which thrives on the mad eccentricities of its title character. And this version thrives on Dirk Alphin's intriguingly bizarre work as Naomi, who terrorizes her visiting son and daughter-in-law (Alan Brown and MacLean).

All together, "Deranged Durang" runs less than an hour. It's more snack than meal, but it's enough. ▼

*Deranged Durang* will have performances at midnight Saturdays and 5 p.m. Sundays through May 10 at Josie's, 3583 16th St. Tickets are \$5 and \$7. Call 861-7933.

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# Desperately seeking Ada

Filmmaker Lynn Hershman Leeson's digital period piece

by Erin Blackwell

Hurrying to my interview with director Lynn Hershman Leeson, I'm trying to figure out the numbers on an industrial-turned-artistic alleyway just off South Park. A street surveyor is friendly, but no help. When I finally find 327, the nondescript beige door still bears traces of red paint, the color it was when actress Francesca Faridany opened it to access a virtual Timothy Leary in the film *Conceiving Ada*.

Using her own front door for a film set was one of the more conventional economies Leeson practiced to realize her portrait of 19th-century computer visionary Ada Byron King, Countess of Lovelace. While the sequences featuring Faridany as a contemporary computer nerd were shot in real space, the time-travelling bits

with Tilda Swinton as her faraway foremother were filmed against digitally-fabricated backgrounds.

When I make it through the spacious white maze that leads to the door of HotWire Productions, Leeson gives me a tour of the place. It's one of the hottest days of the year, but as befits a member of the artistic intelligentsia, she's wearing a voluminous black pantsuit over a magenta shirt buttoned to the neck. Her eyes are barely visible behind rose-colored glasses, and her face betrays no emotion. She speaks softly and smiles often, but this tends more to underscore than to conceal her status as an avant-garde heavyweight.

After trying half-a-dozen keys, the imposing auteur opens the door to the room where Swinton's scenes were filmed. Part of the floor and two freestanding walls are painted a pool-cue chalk-cube blue. Onto this blue, digitized and



Lynn Hershman Leeson

computer-manipulated images of Bay Area Victorians were laid, creating the illusion of three-dimensional parlors and bedrooms. This process was achieved during, not after, filming, allowing the actors to check their positions as they performed.

This all sounds terribly radical. "The technologies existed," she explains, "but nobody had ever done it in a feature film before. Nobody quite used the system that I used to create this. So, in other words, Studio Max 3 existed, the UltiMat existed, PhotoShop existed, but no one had ever put them together to make a digital period piece."

## Digital world

What possessed her? "I had no money!" she laughs. "I wanted to do this piece. I thought, one, Ada lived in a digital world, anyway. That was her environment. It would be appropriate to create her background out of this technology that she really foresaw. And, two, I could not imagine a reason why it wouldn't work. It seemed much more interesting than just doing locations. And also we had to do it in six days."

Did I hear her right? "I had six days," she repeats. "I shot a film in six days, without looking at any rushes. If I had looked at the rush-

es, we would have had a much better film. Most of the scenes were done once. It was done on a ridiculous budget and no time."

When I ask her to name a figure, Leeson hesitates. "We had a lot donated," she explains. "Originally, we were given about \$200,000 from German television. The other producer, Henry Rosenthal, and myself put in another 150. And then we raised about another 500 in donations and services. So I would say close to a million, if you had to figure it out. And the only way I could get Tilda Swinton was if we did it all in six days. That was all the time she had."

Swinton responded to the six-day challenge by giving an exquisite performance, even shedding some of her trademark uptightness to deliver a more intimate glimpse of her own intelligence. The narrative problem is, she doesn't appear until halfway through the film, when Faridany's character finally manages to "contact" Ada via some Neuromancer-style cybermumbo-jumbo. Fortunately, Faridany more than holds her own. In fact, the Berkeley Rep alumna is so compelling as a chain-smoking mad scientist with fashion sense and a motorcycle, we forget we're waiting to watch Tilda chew virtual scenery.

Blessed with two wonderful actresses, no budget, and her own brain, Leeson has fashioned an homage to the mother of all computer programmers in keeping with increased interest in the woman who invented software. "There's a million hits a day on her on the Internet now," says Leeson, "but when I was researching her, there were only two books that had been written, in the late 80s." Hershman and co-writer Eileen Jones eventually based the film's biographical segments on Betty A. Toole's 1992 book, *Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers* (Strawberry Press, Mill Valley).

"There are very few intelligent, strong women as characters in film," sighs Leeson. "And I think the whole issue of credit, the whole issue of becoming invisible, the issue of the conflict between passions, of a woman's place, of a woman not being her best, is something that women have struggled with for many years. It's

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## FILM

# Circus of sycophants

## 'Ayn Rand — A Sense of Life'

by Chris Culwell

There is perhaps no 20th-century celebrity whose life seems better-suited for documentary treatment than Ayn Rand, controversial philosopher of egoism and author of the bestselling polemical tomes *Anthem*, *We the Living*, *The Fountainhead*, and *Atlas Shrugged*. Alas, Michael Paxton's new film, *Ayn Rand — A Sense of Life*, which purports to be a documentary of Rand's life, is anything but. Boasting a small army of fawning sycophants who recall their colorful friendships with Rand but not her ideas, Paxton's film is more of a love letter to the late author than it is a balanced appraisal of her worth as an intellectual.

Paxton's blinkered effort is unfortunate because Rand's life and work are worth investigating, if for no other reason than to put in check her acolytes' mind-numbing demagoguery, who use her ideas about self-esteem and egoism as excuses to denounce all forms of socialism, and to entertain fantasies of success and power, no matter how inane or frivolous they may be.

Frivolity was hardly what Rand

had in mind by becoming a philosopher of capitalism and the self. The pulpy, disputatious tone of her books and the severe, moralistic manner in which she lived her own life were reflections not just of an outspoken personality, but of the conflicted time and place in which she came of age. Ayn Rand was born Alice Rosenbaum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1905, a few short years before an era of cataclysmic, world-historical change was to sweep across Europe and Russia. As a teenager, young Alice saw her country plunged into war and revolution. She was appalled at the economic ruin that befell Russia after the 1917 revolution, the sight of people begging in the streets for crumbs, and the smell of sickness and death all around her. Most of all, though, she was disgusted by the lies about social progress being foisted upon Russia's masses by Lenin and his followers. Fearful that she would suffer the same fate as so many others in Russia, Alice arranged for a visa in the early 1920s and came to the United States. With the exception of one sister, she would never see her family again.

To his credit, Paxton goes to

great lengths to show that Rand's contempt for communism was rooted in first-hand experience, but the film loses its point of view shortly thereafter, the balance of this two-and-one-half-hour effort being little more than a string of silly clips of Rand commie-trashing in her dotage on the *Phil Donahue Show* (1980), lengthy recitations from *Atlas Shrugged*, and interminable reflections from brown-nosing talking heads.

What's missing from this story of a philosopher's life is philosophy. One can imagine a film about Rand with teeth, in which thinkers of note, not former associates and know-nothing dilettantes, weigh the validity of her ideas against a range of viewpoints. Debate is central to philosophy, and its absence from this effort is conspicuous. Not allowing Rand's ideas to be discussed and challenged openly reflects a complete lack of trust in them as vehicles for philosophical exchange. One can only imagine what Ayn Rand would have to say about that. ▼

**Ayn Rand — A Sense of Life** opens Friday, May 1 at the Opera Plaza Cinemas.



Ayn Rand

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## No sex 'Object'

by David Lamble

How's this for a 90s movie — a man and a woman, both neurotic underachievers, he's gay, she's pregnant, fall into each other's arms in order to escape the charismatic bullying men they're both attracted to. It's a funny and, yes, sweet idea — a perfect romance for a time when anybody can have anybody, and yet nobody wants anybody they can have. *The Object of My Affection* derives both its title and plot from Stephen McCauley's hilarious 1987 novel. It was a book that cried out to be a great screen comedy. In the book, George and Nina are on a collision course — they will fuck, and destroy what's special about their friendship. In the screenplay by Wendy Wasserstein, George and Nina make only a farcical stab at each other's erogenous zones — "Just kidding, folks," they seem to be saying.

Although optioned upon publication for the screen, it took ten years of creative meetings to get *Object* before the cameras. Then-head of Paramount Barry Diller reportedly vetoed an early version that failed to bring George and Nina to the alter. Wasserstein



George (Paul Rudd, right) and human orgasmatron Paul (Anita Barone)

stuck to her guns, and *Object* became the Great White Whale of scripts, at times dangled before such dream casts as Jodie Foster and Keanu Reeves. Six years ago, it was almost made with Debra Winger and Mathew Modine. The fly in the ointment for Hollywood was a story told from the point of view of a very eligible and very gay bachelor. Make it the woman's story, they seemed to be saying, and this movie will be made.

The resulting film is a toothless urban fairy tale that feels at times like a collaboration between the casts of "Friends" and "Just Shoot Me." George (Paul Rudd from the film *Clueless*) and Nina (Jennifer Aniston of "Friends") live like they've just won some modern rock radio station's get-a-life contest. They are wooed and dined by a name-dropping literary agent and his caustic wife (sharply observed by Alan Alda and Allison Janney), who seem to have arrived in a time-warped from the set of *Bonfire of the Vanities* — the kind of people who would never speak to the George and Nina of the book.

*The Object of My Affection* never has the courage of its sexu-

al politics. Whereas in the book, George and Nina come together to escape insufferably domineering boyfriends, and then push their luck in bed at the cost of their relationship, Rudd and Aniston sidestep the whole issue of sexual compatibility by simply finding obliging new partners who apparently don't mind acting like human orgasmitrons while George and Nina reserve their real intimacy for each other. The one new twist that pays off in the film is the addition of an elderly theatre critic (Nigel Hawthorne) whose younger boyfriend is abducted by George, and who causes the audience to feel just how much a thwarted love can hurt.

Rudd and Aniston give the ballroom dancing scenes a nice comic feel, but the darkly neurotic subtext that drew George and Nina together is little in evidence, and their unconventional parenting arrangements are not enough to make us care. Aniston is probably the film's big winner, since she projects an engaging big-screen presence, the slightly kooky pushiness of a younger Barbra Streisand without the abrasive ego. But instead of seeing the movie, curl up with the book. ▼

## Conceiving Ada

◀ previous page

not all that much better now. These are issues we have to confront and overcome." ▼

**Conceiving Ada** plays the **SIFF** at AMC Kabuki 8 on May 1 at 9:30 p.m. Lynn Herschman Leeson's photos show at Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary, through May 23 (call 421-0122). Her sculpture shows at Gallery Paula Anglim, 14 Geary, May 13 through June 6 (call 433-2710).

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## San Francisco Opera Tauris trap

by Paul Thomason

Going to the opera is supposed to be a cathartic experience. The art form's combination of drama, singing, orchestral music, and sometimes dance, in the exploration of the

deepest human emotions, should always move an audience in a profound way. Alas, this catharsis has become an almost extinct phenomenon, which is why opera lovers should make every effort to see the San Francisco Opera Center's production of Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* before it closes on Saturday.

es on Saturday.

The opera retells the Greek myth of Iphigénie, who unknowingly almost sacrifices her brother Oreste to the gods, and of the love between Oreste and his childhood friend and boon companion Pylade. Last Saturday, when Iphigénie and Oreste finally recognized each other, my eyes got all watery and there was a huge lump in my throat — undoubtedly what the composer intended. But by then Mel Ulrich (Oreste) and Christina Lamberti (Iphigénie) had created such riveting characters, under the well-paced leadership of conductor Susan Webb, that Gluck's magical music drama could not fail.

On entering the Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Theater at the University of San Francisco, the audience is greeted by a most unpromising sight: a virtual garbage dump of old clothes. There are mounds of them heaped on the steeply raked stage, more hanging from the top of the stage, and one entire wall is made of nothing but discarded clothes. What does this have to do with one of the most elegantly classical of all opera? The rags are all that remain of those who have arrived at Tauris and been sacrificed by order of King Thoas. Moving around in this ton or so of fabric is sometimes difficult for the singers, but for the most part Mark Wendland's set and costumes work nicely, especially when the wall of clothing falls suddenly for the entrance of the goddess Diana (well sung by Karen Fergusson) at the opera's end.

### Married to the music

Director Carey Perloff, on loan from ACT, has grasped the fact



Baritone Mel Ulrich and soprano Christina Lamberti.

that when operatic stage action is married to the music, it becomes infinitely more powerful. Under Perloff's direction, the religious rituals had a sublime effect, and the singers were able to incorporate the drama of Gluck's orchestral writing into their movement in a natural way.

This is not to suggest it was a perfect evening. Stringing up Oreste and Pylade (Norman Shankle) with ropes for such a long time got dangerously close to softcore porn, and the two men did not seem totally at ease with the physical requirements of their scenes together, mild (and necessary) though they were.

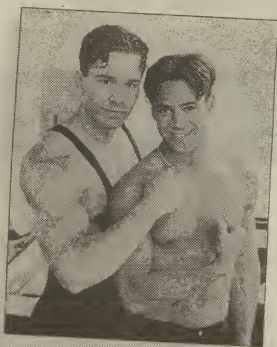
Vocally, Lamberti's Iphigénie was not to everyone's taste. Her spinto soprano is rich and pas-

sionate, so those who prefer a cool, restrained, "classical" Iphigénie were disappointed. Since conveying emotion on the operatic stage is almost a lost art, I was happy to revel in such an intensely alive, young, passionate Iphigénie. Much of Lamberti's soft singing was ravishingly beautiful, and she was often thrilling in the more extroverted moments of the role. Brava. But top honors must go to Ulrich for his superbly nuanced, beautifully sung Oreste. It was a musical, emotional, and dramatic tour de force. And when Lamberti and Ulrich were together, it was opera the way it ought to be. ▼

For tickets and further information, call 864-3330.

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Do Let Us Go Away, A Play by Gertrude Stein at Exit Theatre.

### Curtain Up!

◀ page 31

#### Women's work

Tuesday night is women's night at Venue 9. The ongoing series features dance, theatre, music, poetry, and multimedia. Upcoming highlights include *Medusa's Tale* (May 5), and *Men's Brains and Other Mysteries of Life* (May 12). Venue 9 is located at 252 Ninth Street, between Folsom and Howard. Call 289-2000 for tickets. Also at Venue 9, *Iphigénie* and *Other Daughters*, a feminist take on the tragedy of the house of Atreus. *Iphigénie* runs through May 30.

Exit Theatre's Absurdist Season continues with two works by Gertrude Stein: *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*, an opera with music by Ned Rorem, and *Do Let Us Go Away*. Both run through June 2 at Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. Call 673-3847.

#### Quickly

Jennifer Kagan and James Michael Rafferty present *The Last Tea*, a collection of encounters,

arguments, and gossip based on short stories by Dorothy Parker. May 8, 9, 15, 16, at Shotwell Studios, 3252a 19th St. at Shotwell. For info, call 431-3637.

The Prologue discussion of A.C.T.'s production of Ferenc Molnar's *The Guardsman* takes place on May 12 from 5:30-6:30 at the Geary Theatre, 415 Geary at Mason. Call 749-2228. I attended the Prologue for *Mary Stuart*, and learned a great deal about both the play and director Carey Perloff's intentions for the production. It was also a very entertaining hour, with an enthusiastic audience discussing Tudor history and Romanticism with energy and good facts. The Prologue is free, and you have enough time between it and the performance to have a really good cup of coffee at Seattle Street Coffee, 456 Geary. Imagine a chance to learn, enjoy, and snub Starbucks, all in one evening. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to [dpeifer@delphi.com](mailto:dpeifer@delphi.com) or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



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## San Francisco Ballet Swans in love

by Stephanie von Buchau

In the best of all possible worlds, last Friday's and Saturday night's San Francisco Ballet performances of *Swan Lake* would have been amalgamated into one impossibly glorious whole, and we'd still be at the War Memorial applauding. For maximum effect, they could have been combined thus:

**The Production.** Few complaints here. Jens-Jacob Worsaae's first two acts, designed in a French style, à la Fragonard or Watteau, are exquisite. And his ravishing, danceable costumes, even after a decade of use, continue to show up the pretensions of costume designers for Lar Lubovitch (*Othello*), William Forsythe (*The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*) and James Kudelka (*Some Women and Men*).

her role debut out of the pressure-filled critic's opening. On the other hand, that means that most of the press missed the most spectacular San Francisco Ballet debut in a major full-length role since Evelyn Cisneros nailed *Aurora* in 1990. The difference is that Cisneros was a mature, experienced artist, while Tan — chronologically, at least — is still a kid.

*Swan Lake* works perfectly well if it is well-played and smoothly danced. And so it did on opening night. Berman may not be a natural *Swan Queen* — she's too nice for the evil *Odile* — but her melancholy *Odette*, with its boneless arms and bold, back-to-the-audience Bolshoi exit in Act Two, is a joy to watch. Her 32 *fouettés* were cleaner than Tan's. But, with her usual bad luck, Berman drew as a partner Cyril Pierre, a tall, well-proportioned Frenchman with appalling manners. He calm-



Vadim Solomakha and Yuan Yuan Tan in *Swan Lake*.

**Most of the press missed the most spectacular San Francisco Ballet debut in a major full-length role since Evelyn Cisneros nailed *Aurora* in 1990. Cisneros was a mature, experienced artist, while Tan — chronologically, at least — is still a kid.**

**The Music.** On opening night, under the baton of music director Denis de Coteau, Tchaikovsky's greatest dramatic score continued to provide both the solid core of the performance and some of its biggest thrills. De Coteau has been very ill; there was talk he may not make the opening night. Yet not only did he accompany with his usual romantic sweep, but the soloists played better for him than they did the following night for Emil de Cou. De Cou's performance was clean and incisive, but it didn't warm your heart (or the seat of your pants) the same way de Coteau's does.

**The Dancing.** Perhaps the idea was not to put all the good eggs in one basket. A senior ballerina — in this case the luckless Joanna Berman — was honored with an opening night. And possibly Helgi Tomasson wanted 21-year-old Yuan Yuan Tan to make

ly walked offstage during his Act One birthday celebration; his predominant facial expression is a sneer, as if he smelled bad fish (what are those swans eating, anyway?). And he's about as romantic as Robbie the Robot.

So there was Berman, once again beating herself to death against an indifferent partner. Pierre is musical, and the white swan was sufficiently well-phrased to please my companion who'd never seen the ballet, but the black swan pas de deux lacked sizzle.

Not on Saturday, when Tan and Vadim Solomakha, the deceptively diminutive Ukrainian, reprised their hot-hot-hot pairing from the January gala. Give Tomasson full credit for seeing that this unlikely couple could make magic. Tan is elongated everywhere, from her liquid arms and proudly arched neck to her

glorious leg extensions. Her balances last forever. The predominant after-image of her swan is a thrusting arabesque; she seems about to fly away rather than frozen in a pose. And her animated, expressive face, sadly passionate as *Odette*, maliciously malevolent as *Odile*, makes her totally captivating.

Solomakha, with his soft landings, gentle manners, and pansy eyes (think Leo DiCaprio, guys), partners strongly, but with discretion, showing off his ballerina. (It's like the classic Fred and Ginger equation: she gives him sex appeal, he gives her class.) Their emotional connection, even in the midst of the bumptious physicality of Tomasson's finale, has an ethereal, unconsummated quality. The partnership is a rapturous fusion of music, technique, emotion and art, and it drove the Saturday night audience wild with pleasure.

**The Audience.** Hey, you

thought ballet was danced in a vacuum? If the audience doesn't get what is happening, then nothing is happening. The San Francisco Ballet still has that terrible habit of seating latecomers during the overture, and people still talk as if they were at *Tap Dogs* or *Miss Saigon*. Friday, half-a-dozen women had babies in their arms, though the babies behaved better than the adults.

Still, this town knows its ballet, and the biggest salvos of cheering went exactly where they were most deserved: to Denis de Coteau and the orchestra; to Guennadi Nedviguine in the peasant pas de trois; to Steve Couteur's owl villain (much stronger than Jorge Esquivel's campy Rothbart on opening night); to Solomakha's lighter-than-air variation in the black swan; to Tan practically every time she took a breath; and finally to the two of them for making magic together. ▼

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## Stephen Petronio's 'Not Garden' Pretty but fallow

by Matthew Kennedy

For nearly a month, Stephen Petronio, the acclaimed New York choreographer, has been camped at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts under the financial auspices of San Francisco Performances. The residency culminated in the full-length dance *Not Garden*, which was given its world premiere last weekend before moving on to the Northwest, Europe and New York.

Petronio came of age as a dancer with Trisha Brown, the veteran choreographer known for her luscious movement and blue-chip visual collaborators (Robert Rauschenberg, Nancy Graves, Donald Judd). Petronio has forged his own style to be sure, his choices are more biting and edgy, as witnessed in the signature 1986 solo #3 and the infectious 1993 dance *The King is Dead*. But the debts to Brown are unmistakable. Chief among them is a commitment to collaboration, and in *Not Garden* he has gone all out.

Marketed as the untold history of the 20th century as inspired by Dante's *Inferno*, *Not Garden* began with a Petronio solo to the strains of Bach's overly familiar "Ave Maria." It was a lovely invocation titled "Call to the Gate," but would seem to have precious little to do with what came subsequently. From there the remaining company of eight entered, with the men in black jockeys and untucked shirts that gave them a certain Tom Cruise/*Risky Business* fashion statement. The women were in off-white sheer dresses that brought to mind Maggie the Cat trawling the bayou.

The costumes, by Ghost, Ltd., and the dancers were ultimately upstaged by Tal Yarden's moving visual landscape. In the lengthy section called "The Pit," names of this century's most malevolent leaders, including Hitler, Mao, Mussolini, Stalin, and Pol Pot, were projected on a see-through front scrim. Behind them, a large video screen provided a collage of scenes — sharks, crowded streets, a burning flower. The effect was initially engaging, with ever-changing images as large as a movie screen swimming across the stage. But soon the evocations became precious: Madonna, Tammy Faye, a smiley face, and aol.com. Petronio and company's intent became muddier still as Act One ended with the dancers delivering unconvincing slaps and slugs to each other. One wondered what any of this had to do with hell or history, much less history untold.

### No Peter Pan

Act Two ("The Final Round") was so brief it looked unfinished. The front scrim was lifted, and dancers created a canvas of apocalyptic dread with the aid of Stephen Hannock's darkly projected backdrop paintings. Sheila Chandra's New Age India-inspired music was welcome after David Linton's Act One score of deconstructed rock and ambient noises. The men were now in casual pants as Petronio entered in a black unitard hooked up to a thick black cord rising overhead. With promises of a Peter Pan moment, Petronio instead stayed earthbound and slowly tilted forward until he was nearly parallel to the floor. The dance was over.

Petronio has employed the ex-

pected team of fine dancers, each up to the task of interpreting his split-second direction changes, supple ripples from head to toe, swirling arms, and ever-elastic neck and shoulder gyrations. But the pleasure of bodies in motion was submerged beneath an excess of

unmoving performance that engaged neither the heart nor the head. The title, a poetically barren choice of words, summarizes the problem. Just what is a *Not Garden*? What does it hope to spark in the imagination? The anti-Eden, perhaps, but the stage im-

**The pleasure of bodies in motion was submerged beneath an excess of half-baked concepts and collaborative ornamentation. The choreography looked threadbare.**

half-baked concepts and collaborative ornamentation. Even the choreography was looking threadbare. Petronio's faithful audience does not see markedly new movement investigations in *Not Garden*.

All the techno-precision of *Not Garden* added up to a curiously

ages were not hellish enough to summon the Prince of Darkness. In Petronio's attempt to project the alienation of modern life, the human cord was severed. What's left is a cold show filled with talented people who have done better work. ▼



Jessica Meeker, Todd Williams, and Antonio Ramos in *Not Garden*.



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## Limited alpha waves

by Victoria A. Brownworth

When is a heterosexual woman really a lesbian? What may sound like the opening line to a joke heard in a bar was actually the substance (we use that word very loosely) of a segment of *20/20*, ABC's flimsiest newsmagazine.

The cast of *20/20* is dreadful enough, consisting of the oldest, but not wisest, folks in network journalism, and a few crackpots. There's the ever-ebullient and totally clueless 80-something Hugh Downs; the racist, sexist and generally snarly malcontent John Stossel, who is like Mikey grown up — he hates everyone; and that caricature of a newswoman, Barbara Walters, who gets more embarrassing with each successive program, adding her facile, saccharine commentary to her correspondents' hard work. (Don't take our word for it — tune in to just one episode of *The View*, Miz Walters' anacephalic brainchild.)

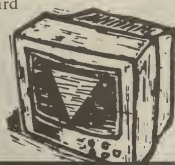
So, given the limited alpha wave activity on *20/20*, as well as the show's past record presenting the more sensationalistic aspects of queer life, the most recent segment wasn't really surprising, just awful. We were mesmerized, as by a bad accident on the roadway.

Two years ago, JoAnn Loulan, therapist, columnist, and author of numerous books on sex and relationships, found herself in bed with and then in love with a new partner. Loulan, 50, a self-professed femme lesbian with long, beach-blond corkscrew curls,



JoAnn Loulan

had become enmeshed with Ronny Crawford, 35, drummer for pop singer Lisa Loeb.



Lavender Tube

"You know how you just have sex with someone as a joke," she told veteran reporter Lynne Scherr. Scherr, well past 50, in a longtime marriage, shook her head. Un-

daunted, Loulan continued, explaining that "sex is an activity, not an identity." (The exact opposite of what Michael Jackson told breeder wife number two, but we digress.) Loulan's in love with and has been living with Crawford — a man — for two years. The conundrum, she says, is that "inside" and "culturally," she is a lesbian.

### Hetero privilege

Conundrum only for Loulan and *20/20*, however. Loulan could claim heterosexual identity (to go with the heterosexual privilege she's enjoying) or claim bisexual identity (to explain her previous lesbian relationships). She cannot claim to be a lesbian "inside" and blame lesbians for not supporting her heterosexual lifestyle.

This *20/20* debacle was execrable. Loulan is a show-woman, as anyone who has paid the stiff fees for her workshops can attest. This was no exception. She wept about how lesbians refuse to accept her as a lesbian now that she

lives with a man. (We are not making this up.) Then she smiled blissfully as she curled herself around Crawford on their sofa. (Must we quote Cordelia in every column: Eew!) Then she allowed her son, whom she had with a lesbian partner 16 years ago, to be described as "Gardiner, the child she conceived through artificial insemination 16 years ago," as if he were a clone.

Counterpoised with charming scenes from Loulan's happy hetero home was angry commentary from an amazingly inarticulate group of young New York queers and some words of wisdom from a pop psychologist. Scherr asserted to Barbara Walters at the end of the segment (as Barbara shook her head, noting, "It's vewwy confusing") that she thought Loulan demanded to be called a lesbian because there was no political clout among bisexuals. What never got articulated, even as Scherr asked Loulan 20-odd times why she insisted on being called a lesbian and not bisexual, is that Loulan's career is writing and commenting on lesbian sexuality. It's about money, pure and simple.

But since *20/20* is never pure, just simple, this never got raised. The question that should be put to ABC is why this opportunistic, sensationalistic drivel is worthy of prime-time coverage. Or have we answered our own question?

### Bayliss watch

The same night we were caught like a doe in the *20/20* headlights, NBC broke real ground on *Homicide: Life on the Street*. This show continues to be one of the most intellectually astute, best written and best-acted of all prime-time shows. Longtime player Detective Bayliss (Kyle Secor) has struggled since last season with his incestuous past. (His uncle molested him for years while Bayliss's father looked the other way.) As with other storylines on this show, the writers have developed Bayliss's conflicts about the incest over time.

Last week's episode, written by *Homicide* player and distinguished black actor Yaphet Kotto, focused on sex abuse of children among the country-club set, trig-

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## THEATRE

## ACT class

◀ Arts cover

goodness. I was surprised they're so up-to-date."

She is one of four ACT staffers taking the class. One of the perks of working at ACT is free enrollment in Studio classes if there are any unfilled slots. While St. Clair is pleased that the class intrigued his colleagues, he acknowledged a disappointment that actors from the community didn't fill the ranks. "I want to do the class again," he said, "but it all depends if there's an interest. If people in the class say to their friends, 'I took this class. You should try it,' it could build up the word-of-mouth."

## Struggling actor

St. Clair, 34, had been a struggling San Francisco actor for about five years when he appeared in a production of *A Christmas Carol* at ACT. He hadn't thought about teaching when Bruce Williams, who heads the Studio program, asked if he would lead an intermediate acting class.

What did Williams see in him? "A dedication to the process," St. Clair said, "and an actor who knows what the play is about. And some of it may have been about hiring for diversity, and I'm fine with that, because I know I can do the work."

Last year, St. Clair suggested and taught a scene-study class in August Wilson's plays, the first time an ACT class had focused on a black writer. And St. Clair's gay and lesbian acting class is another first for ACT. "I guess I'm using all aspects of myself," he said.

While St. Clair's recent com-



ACT teacher Brent St. Clair

mitment to teaching sometimes gets in the way of his own acting aspirations, it did let him leave his job as a waiter. It's also making him a better actor, he said.

"Teaching helps you get a better understanding of the process," St. Clair said. "I think I'm a growing actor, but I haven't had that much opportunity to work, so teaching has really helped."

## Warming up

In the classroom, St. Clair is both gentle and intense. Even during the warm-up exercises, his

dark eyes are constantly scanning the room, picking up some unknown information. "You need to have that full 100-percent sacred-ground involvement," he tells the group as they shake, shout, and shimmy away their real-life concerns.

The students then begin working on the scenes they have been assigned: a grieving father visits his late son's lover, only to find that he is sharing his house with a new man; a gay dancer coaches an apparently straight actor for a gay film role; a lesbian and her lover try to convince a former boyfriend to father a child for them; a college instructor fights his attraction for the straight jock he is tutoring.

On this day, the pieces have purposefully not yet been memorized. The students improvise from their readings of the material, looking for the emotions rather than the lines. St. Clair offers suggestions and observations and asks questions before the scenes are run again. Midway through the course, the students will get a new set of scenes that "will be a little more difficult, dealing with heavier issues," St. Clair said. *Bent* and *The Boys in the Band* are among the titles under consideration. Those scenes will be polished before they are presented in an open class that friends and other Studio students can attend.

"This is not a class on how to act gay, by any means," St. Clair said. "You deal with the world of the play, whatever that is, and the actor's job is to communicate that. But what you want to do is bring an aspect of yourself to the role. This is a class where you can be comfortable doing that." ▼

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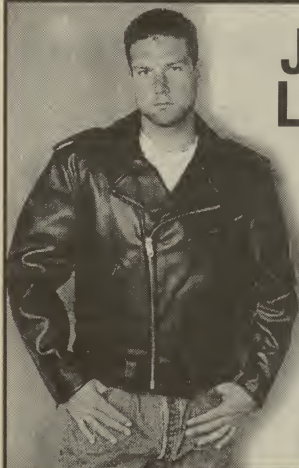
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# Winning in Washington

by Mister Marcus

American Brotherhood Weekend was a three-day (April 24-26) extravaganza, set in the nation's capital at the loveliest time of the year, that ranked right up there with Intl. Mr. Leather, IMsL and Intl. Mr. Drummer. Although El Niño had already brought out the cherry blossoms, it was a perfect weekend weatherwise. Four contestants vied for the American Leather Man title; three for American Leather Woman; and four for American Leather Boy.

There were no contestants from anywhere west of Chicago. Able Productions intends to change that situation with an intensive outreach effort for ABW 1999 (to be held again in Washington).

It was a blast judging with Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Scott Tucker, Kevin Cwayna, Jim Raymond, Leslie Anderson and Max Steiner. However, it was no easy task, especially in the ALW and ALB categories. The Olympic scoring system was utilized throughout, and Frank Nowicki emceed all segments of the weekend beginning with the meet and greet at the Eagle on Friday night.

The contest itself was staged at the Club Improv on Saturday afternoon (hot wear and Q&A) and Sunday afternoon (fantasies). This arrangement allowed weekend package holders to be free both nights to use their drink tickets and explore other venues.

On Friday night, a private party at the home of Mary Elizabeth Boyd in suburban Virginia was quite a glamorous affair. The food, an epicure's delight, was superb, and the desserts were so elegant it was a shame to eat them. Ms. Boyd, who was decked out in her finest leathers (and feathers), is the darling of the leather community in that area. Her interest in leather is so intense that she already has her travel and hotel arrangements made for Intl. Mr. Leather, Intl. Mr. Drummer and IMsL.

The competition was great. In keeping with the venue, many of



ABW winners: American Leather Woman Mercea Strecker, American Leather Man Martin Hall and American Leather Boy Terry Sapp (kneeling).

the fantasies were of an extremely humorous nature and had the audience in stitches. It was refreshing to see fantasies with strong sexual nuances that managed to be funny at the same time.

Viola Johnson, subbing for Jill Carter, arrived in time to continue the Unsung Hero Award tradition, which was introduced at the Mid-Atlantic Leather contest in January. The recipients this year were Tony Golladay, an avid fundraiser for AIDS causes in the Washington-Metro area, and Mrs. Mary Nowicki, mother of the triple-crown emcee, Frank. Her support of and contributions to the causes of the lesbian/gay communities have not gone unnoticed. She has even served as Ms. Brother Help Thyself (an agency similar to our AEF). The only sad news of the weekend was that former IMsL Jill Carter was unable to attend ABW because of her father's death. Our prayers are with Ms. Carter and her family.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Around 1600, after all the title holders present were introduced and many "commercials" given for other events, the tally masters added up

the scores. Just before the results were announced, Jim, Leslie and Max gave stepping-aside speeches that brought tears to many eyes in the audience.

Then the moment of truth arrived. For the second year in a row, the American Leather Boy is Terry Sapp, a leather woman from Baltimore. Her fireman/firehouse fantasy performed with Sarah Humble was a show-stopper. The first runner-up was Paul Auger of Providence, R.I., and the second runner-up was Boy Ray Arnsdorff of Orlando, Fla.

Mercea Strecker of Chicago is American Leather Woman '98. She also holds the Mid-American Leather Woman title. Her fantasy of a vampire who attacks a waitress in a posh dining room raised the roof. The first runner-up was Terry Resnick of Pittsburgh, Penn., and the second runner-up was Beth Kelly of Madison, Wis.

Martin Hall of Providence became American Leather Man '98. This great specimen of manhood is a member of the Enforcers of Rhode Island MC and a bartender. The first runner-up was Michael Weems of Bayshore, N.Y., and the second runner-up was James "J.W." West of Providence.

It was one of Able Production  
page 41 ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, May 1-3

They'll be selecting Ms. Washington State Leather this weekend in Seattle. The meet and greet is on Friday; the contest on Saturday at Neighbors Nite Club at 1900; the victory brunch on Sunday at Beyond the Edge.

### Saturday, May 2

Mr. SF Leather Stephan Edwards hosts a beer/soda bust at the Powerhouse, 1800-2100, with \$2 bottled beer and a raffle to benefit the Gay/Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California.

Exiles/SF hosts a safety orientation for women at the Women's Building, 1530-1745, \$3 at the door. Call 487-5170 for details.

### Sunday, May 3

Inter-Club Fund motorcycle blessing in front of Daddy's at 0900. Next, a bike ride to the Santa Cruz mountains and the San Mateo coast, lunch at Princeton-by-the-Sea, and return to SF by 1430. At 1500, the Cal Eagles MC hosts its annual Cinco de Mayo beer/soda bust at the Eagle, \$8.

### Wednesday, May 6

Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930, at a SoMa location. The subject is "Master/Slave Relation-

ships: How to Get Them, How to Keep Them." Hosted by Phil and Rod Ross. Call 626-3547. Leather encouraged.

### Thursday, May 7

Mr. October 1999 gets chosen tonight at the Powerhouse for the Bare Chest Calendar, 2200. Win \$100, fame, the adoration of the high and mighty!

Big Basket Contest at the Edge Bar with the usual suspects, plus a \$100 cash prize, thrills galore and the Old Bag to Kibitz.

### Saturday, May 9

Mr. SF Leather Stephan Edwards hosts another beer/soda bust to benefit the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago, 1900-2200, at Daddy's. Club colors and other stuff will be donated to the museum.

Mr. Sacramento Drummer contest at The Bolt in the capital tonight at 2200. Come and see Mike Butler pass the sash. All proceeds benefit Positive Gourmet and the Lambda Letters Project.

### Wednesday, May 13

Mr. Hairy Chest 1998 contest at Daddy's, 2000-2400, with \$8 beer/soda bust and the Lollipop Guild entertains. Winner gets a leather title vest. Who will succeed Harry Lit and Lynn Odvody? Come and see!



## BOOKS

# Pulchritude's progress

by Patrick D. Hoctel

*The Male Nude* by David Leddick; Taschen, \$29.99

Novelist/critic David Leddick's *The Male Nude* makes an excellent companion volume to the earlier (1994) Taschen book, *1,000 Nudes* (the Uwe Scheid Collection). While that work was composed almost exclusively of female nudes from the 1850s to the 1950s, Leddick's opus gives fans of the male form 768 pages to glory in, from the 1850s right down to the present day.

As might be expected, the usual suspects — Baron Wilhelm von Gloeden, George Platt Lynes, Bob Mizer, Herb Ritts, Bruce Weber, Tom Bianchi, Robert Mapplethorpe, Pierre et Gilles, etc. — are all present and accounted for. However, they acquit themselves admirably with vibrant, albeit familiar, images that still manage to look fresh in this larger, historical context.

The real joy of a collection such as this is the many surprises in store for the unsuspecting reader, from Edwin F. Townsend's series of photos on the legendary Tony Sansone to Cecil Beaton's two-page spread on Johnny Weismuller that gives new meaning to the word "creamy." Other finds include work by the likes of Konrad Helbig, Sakiko Nomura, James Bidgood, George Daniell, Will McBride, and the ever-popular and prolific Anonymous. Of course, these are just some of my favorites; fortunately, *The Male Nude* is all-encompassing enough to accommodate almost everyone's tastes and preferences.

A careful — and lucky — purchaser may even have the same experience I had: of rediscovering a cherished picture that had since become a blur in memory. In my case, it was Vivienne Maricevic's



Photograph by Konrad Helbig, Brazil, circa 1968.

Eugene, truly an angel caught un-awares.

Although each image has its own power and immediacy, it's especially fascinating to trace the trajectory of *les hommes sans vêtements* since the beginnings of photography in the 19th century. The early photos feature men in decidedly stiff poses with oversized fig leaves or gauzy draperies veiling their nether-regions. Often, they're wrestling or running or set amidst a pastiche of Greco-Roman statuary and artifacts. They are all "studies," as if there needed to be an excuse to record the wonders of men's bodies. From this, it's only a scant 150 years to the radically sexualized

and highly personal *oeuvres* of artists like Nan Goldin, Wolfgang Tillmans, and Richard Kern. A relatively short time, indeed, for such a leap.

My only quibble with what is sure to be a standard reference work in its field is the 7-5/8" by 5-1/2" format. This is a book that fairly cries out for coffee-table status (like its predecessor), and even though the reproductions are of superb quality, bigger here would have definitely been better (albeit pricier and a lot heavier). In any case, *The Male Nude* is a treasure trove of images and information, art and kitsch, that any aficionado of our unclothed brethren will cherish. ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

tions' finest hours. A heap of thanks to Jim Cobb, Roger Fleming, Howard Fleming and our own Vern Stewart. They went out of their way to make everyone comfortable and welcome. American Brotherhood Weekend is fast becoming a "must-do" on the leather weekend-run circuit. The many dedicated volunteers were especially diligent in dealing with all the major and minor details necessary for a production of this magnitude. I hope you'll mark your calendars now for April 23-25, 1999.

The dish side of ABW cannot be ignored, either! Big Jim McGlade, proprietor of the Leather Rack, displayed his good taste in the "spicier" aspects of maledom. While he has a little "burrito on the hoof" here in San Francisco, he also has an attractive Asian man in Washington. I can't remember his name, but in leather circles, he's known as either "Thai Me Up" or "Thai Me Down." Mr. McGlade says his new friend's butt is as smooth as Frank Nowicki's used to be! I see!

And Intl. Mr. Leather Kevin Cwayna finally unveiled his hunk, a tall slice of Canadian bacon who was there from Montreal to help Kevin get through the remaining 24 days of his reign. Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Tony Mills was

there, too, looking stately and butch with his delightfully proportioned paramour from North Carolina. As for myself, I was content to consort with a studly man (no names, please!), who is a member of the Knight Hawks MC of Norfolk, Va.

Finally, an eyewitness approached me with the news that former Mr. SF Leather Tom Powers is alive, well and still smoking cigars and chasing "chicken" in Roanoke, Va.'s only gay bar. Mr. Powers told my informant he was just plain over San Francisco, the leather community and his Mr. SF Leather title. Oh, well. Feeling's mutual.

### Back at the raunch

They held the Mr. Southern California Leather contest last

Saturday night, April 25, at the Probe in Los Angeles. Seven contestants vied for the title. Jeff Buppert was the emcee, and from all reports, he did another bang-up job. I didn't get all the details or any photos yet, but Anthony Russell, a bartender from The Spike, won the title. He'll compete at IML in Chicago next month.

Since I was out of town last Thursday through this Monday, I missed the Mr. September Bare Chest Contest at the Powerhouse, which was emceed by Andy Anderson. When all was said and done, Brent Cassidy took the Mr. September 1999 spot; the runner-up was Mark Frizzell. Mr. October 1999 will be chosen next Thursday, May 7, at the Powerhouse. Be there! ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Eric M. Rose



The cast of Carni Mundi.

## Carnalval

I've had a few problems in my limited experiences with interactive performance art. While the genre certainly qualifies as avant-garde, post-postmodern, and just about any other intellectual label for "the cutting edge" to be had, it can easily seem to lack "old school" qualities like poignancy, meaning, and structure. I've always found it to be a little too pretentious and one-dimensional, leaving me with an aimless, empty feeling as I wandered around the "interactive gallery." It was like someone had written the audience into the play, but had neglected to put together a coherent script.

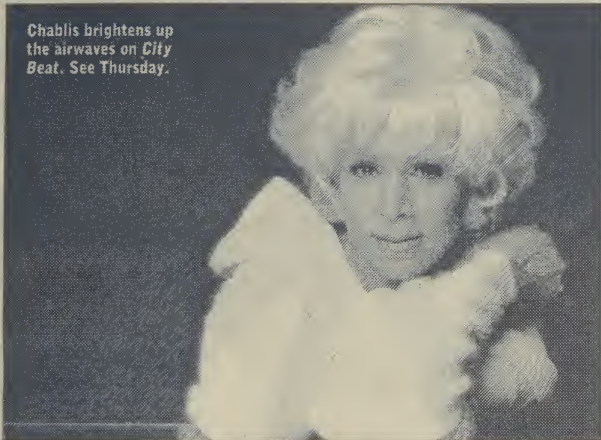
But not so with Joegh Bullock's and Scott Levkoff's *Carni Mundi* at the Climate Gallery. The show is billed as a hybrid of erotic cabaret, circus sideshow, puppet show, and environmental theatre — all under the guise of a virtual big-top for the '90s. But it is nothing short of genius, pulling the audience into a kaleidoscopic living theatre where each patron can shape their own experience through their encounters with the various performers (20 in all).

From the very beginning, when the audience is given a sideshow rundown by a circus barker and then shown a silent sex film before being set free into the fun house, the atmosphere is one of carefully charged eroticism. The sumptuous sets, the elaborate, and at times nearly non-existent, costumes, and the wonderful talent of the various erotic freaks in the show have all been carefully orchestrated to transport you into a reality where pleasure is king and we are all challenged to examine how far we are willing to go (and with whom) for that fleeting pleasure fix.

Cockrobin's Tart Twisitng Tea Party. The Nauthy Faerie Playhouse. The vagina/door leading to Mami Swami. The young schoolgirl soliciting sex, drugs, and help with her homework. All of the disparate elements of the show weave a subtle tapestry of subversion and desire that are skillfully brought together in a dramatic climax. After leaving (or rather being forced out the door after nearly 2 1/2 hours), I walked away feeling intellectually satiated, yet somehow emotionally enervated and unsure — a sort of theatrical afterglow as a result of a virtual near-sex experience. ▼

**Carni Mundi** plays through Saturday at the Climate Theatre, 285 9th St. The show begins at 8pm, with an additional 11pm show on Saturday. Tickets are \$17.50. Call 978-2345 for more info.

Chablis brightens up the airwaves on City Beat. See Thursday.



## Fri

### Ballistic Femme

Marie Cartier's one-woman show: the wacky world of butch/femme. \$10-\$13. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm; thru 5/3. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

### Do I Hear a Waltz?

42nd Street Moon's concert reading of "lost musical" by Stephen Sondheim & Richard Rogers. \$10-\$20. Call for times thru Sun.; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

### Don't Get Up

A Musical History of the Opera Queen, Sean Owens' new play. \$16-\$20. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/9. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 437-2349.

### Duty Free

David Mills' solo show; with video by Please Louis. \$12. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 8pm; thru 5/31. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### Echoes & Postcards

Variety revue by Tennessee ensemble, The Road Company. \$18. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 2pm & 8pm. Thru 5/3. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

### Feed

Exhibit based on food: photography, film, performance work, Tupperware party, speakers. Reception tonight at 5:30pm. Tues.-Sat., 12pm-5pm; thru 6/13. CameraWork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

### Herstory of Porn

Solo performance by Annie Sprinkle. \$15-\$20. Wed.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 8pm & 10pm; thru 5/16. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Ft. Mason. 392-4400.

### IEP Celebration

Celebration for re-opening of the Immune Enhancement Project: live entertainment by the Andrews Sisters, Lisa Geduldig, more; celebrities; silent auction; food; prizes; more. Free. 5pm-8pm. IEP, 3450 16th St.

### Iphigenia and Other Daughters

Mettle Theatre presents "a dysfunctional family drama of mythic proportions" by Ellen McLaughlin. \$10-\$12. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 289-2000.

### Keeping Critical

"Native American Art &

Post-Modernism: Traditional Forms & Contemporary Expressions," free panel discussion. 8pm. Knuth Theatre, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 626-2787.

### Kvetch

Teatro Shalom presents Steven Berkoss's comedy. \$12. 8pm thru Sat. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 602-4387.

### Late Night Live

Comedy showcase with David Mills and Bridget Schwartz; "Urban Myth Show," with guests Isadora Alman, Christine Pelosi, Mark Davis. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th. 861-7933.

### Lawrence Chua

Reads from *Gold by the Inch*. 5pm. Free. City Lights, 261 Columbus.

### Long Hard Attention Span

Stand-up comedy by Mark Davis, Karla Carmony opens. \$12. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 5/9. Dinner-theatre at 6pm Fri.-Sat. for \$28. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Mel Hanson

Retrospective, 1938-1962. Exhibit of paintings and assemblages. 12pm-5pm, Thurs.-Sun; thru 6/1. Reception tonight at 6pm. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 255-8900.

### Nesting Dolls

Modern dance performance

by Cid Pearlman's dance co.; original music by Jonathan Segel. \$12-\$14. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/9. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

### A Parisian Salon Evening

Teatro Bacchino presents: semi-staged concert of music, dance, storytelling from French Baroque. \$20. 8pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St. (510) 658-3382.

### Portraits

Interdisciplinary performance art by Pam Wat & Chris Kammler. \$10-\$20. 8pm thru Sat. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

### Revolution She Wrote

Feminist book party by Radical Women for Clara Fraser's new book. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 864-1278.

### Riding From Normal

Mark Kenward's solo adventure. \$8-\$16. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm; thru 5/9. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

### SF Games

Weekly card and board games open to all players. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

### Sweetow Gallery

Exhibit of work by Bella Feldman and Anne Veraldi. Tues.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. Thru 5/23. Patricia Sweetow Gallery, 49 Geary, 4th Floor.

### Substance 7

A seniors dance showcase by SFSU students. \$5. 8pm. SFSU, Little Theatre, Creative Arts Bldg, 1600 Holloway. 338-2467.

### Urban Visions

Exhibit for Mural Awareness Month. Reception tonight at 6pm. Exhibit thru 5/31. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287.

### Wayang Bali

Traditional Balinese shadow play with shadowmaster Larry Reed. Free. 8pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-4461.

## Sat 2

### Ancient Glass from the Holy Land

Exhibit of 250 glass objects for Israel's 50th anniversary. \$7. Wed.-Sun., 9:30am-5pm; thru 8/16. de Young Mus'um, 75 Tea Garden Drive. 750-3614.

### Cinco ce Mayo Fiesta

Emceed by South to the Future zine editors, videos, live performance, computer animation, more. \$5-\$10. 8pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

### Closet Ball

SF's coming out party: contestants go from macho men to bodacious beauties. \$20-\$25. 8pm. GiftCenter, 888 Brannan. (510) 444-4729.

### Conservatory Orchestra

Season finale performance. \$10. 8pm. Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega. 759-3475.

### Deranged Durang

Four one act plays by Christopher Durang. \$5-\$7. Sat. at midnight, Sun. at 5pm; thru 5/10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Fauxgirls

Drag revue hosted by Sexilya Luvseat and Miss Carriage. \$8. 9:30pm & 11pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

### Flash Family

SF improv troupe celebrates 20th anniversary with 100% spontaneous theater, comedy, and song. \$12. 8:30pm Sat.; thru 5/9. Blue Bear Hall, Ft. Mason, Bldg. D. 885-5678 ext. 2.

### Gay Geeks

A gay/bi/lesbian haven for intellectuals and visionaries. 2pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 679-3680.

### Hoffa Lives & Accidents Happen

Solo performance comedy by Sabrina Alonso. \$6-\$10.

8pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 282-9937.

### Mario Lopez

Appearing live at Futura. \$10. 21+ w/d. Doors open at 10pm. 173 King St. 665-6715.

### No Fences

Solo work by Jan Probst: lesbian perspective on love in the sticks. \$10. 8pm thru Sun. Speakeasy Theatre, 2016 7th St., Berkeley. (510) 845-4100.

### Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Sabrina Matthews, Dan Rothenberg, Maureen Brownsey. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Spring plant sale

Strybing Arboretum Society's 31st annual sale with over 20,000 plants. 10am-2pm. County Fair Bldg, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 661-3090.

### Women's Philharmonic

Performance incl. US premiere of Judith Weir's *Heroic Strokes of the Bow*. \$20-\$35. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

## Sun

### Edge Play

"Sharp shocking writers on the edge," incl. Kris Kovich, Harriet Dodge, Al Lujan, more. \$5. 8pm. 848 Divisadero Community Space. 643-8118.

### Live Jazz

Free admission. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Pat Griffin

Reads from *Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbians and Homophobia in Sports*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Shear Madness

Whodunit comedy's one year anniversary: cameo by Jan Wahl. \$30. 3pm & 7pm. Call for other dates, times. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

### Tabla Rasa

Classical Indian music concert, with Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri. \$15. 8pm. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

### Venus Envy

Berlin and Paris cabaret performance by Lauren Carley. \$10-\$15. 7:30pm. Piaf's, 1686 Market. 864-3700.

### Wayang Bali

Traditional Balinese shadow play with Shadowmaster I Wayan Wija. \$16-\$18. 7pm. Yerba Buena Center, 601 Mission. 978-2787.

### The Whole Noyse

Noe Valley Chamber Music performs Renaissance music on period instruments. \$5-\$10. 2pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 333-9444.

## Mon

### Ed Herring

Reads from *That Fine Inability to Speak*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Karen Ripley, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Havana Panorama

Photo exhibit by Rick Gerhardt. Reception tonight at 7pm. Exhibit thru 5/31. Mad



The Road Company direct from Tennessee in *Echoes and Postcards*. See Friday.



Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

### The Izzies

Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, incl. performances by Lily Cai, K.T. Nelson, Tabula Rasa, more. 6:30pm. \$10-\$12. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

### Kitsch

Exhibit on the art of popular culture, incl. Uncle Mame, Mary Norman, Joi Tripp, more. Free. 10am-6pm, Mon.-Thur.; 10am-3pm, Fri. Thru 5/21. Cesar Chavez Student Center Art Gallery, SFSU, 1600 Holloway.

### Legally Blonde

Meg Mackay's CD release party/concert. \$12. 8pm. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

## Tues

### Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun., thru 5/24. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

### Haines Gallery

Exhibit of photos by Andy Goldsworthy and paintings by Tim Litzmann. 10:30am-5:30pm, Tues.-Sat.; thru 5/23. Haines, 49 Geary, 5th floor. 397-8114.

### Kate Summerscale

Reads from *Queen of Whale Cay*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Open Mic Music

Weekly showcase for singers, musicians, dancers; hosted by Retts, the original fashion dyke. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Philosophers Cafe

Ongoing discussion group. Free. 7pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

### Queer Dharma

Voices of Gay Buddhists, reading incl. John Killacky, Michael Hyman, Lee Robbins. Free. 7:30pm. Cody's, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-7852.

## Wed

### Barbara Wilson

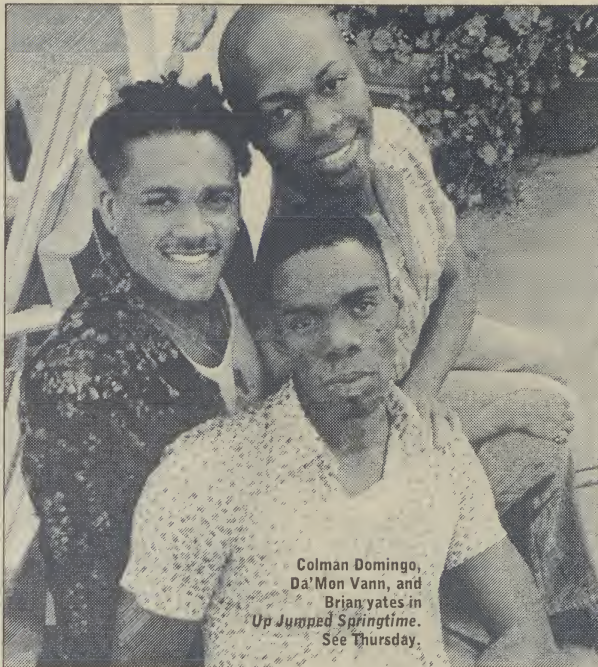
Reads from *Blue Windows*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Chuck Jones

Exhibit of art & animation by Bugs Bunny animator/director. 10am-6pm daily. Studio Gallery, 654 Mission. 243-8670.

### The King and I

Marie Osmond in Rogers and



Colman Domingo, Da'Mon Vann, and Brian Yates in *Up Jumped Springtime*. See Thursday.

Hammerstein classic. \$19.50-\$67. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/10. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

### My Night With Reg

Kevin Elyot's comedy: haunting tales of gay love and desire. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/16. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

### Robert Haas

Former poet laureate speaks. \$16. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

### SFMOMA Rental Gallery

Exhibit of paintings by Keith Ferris & Jessica Snow; sculpture by Marta Thoma. 11:30am-5:30pm, Tues.-Sat.; thru 5/29. Ft. Mason, Bldg. A. 441-4777.

### World Press Photo 1998

Also, "World Press Photo Retrospective, 1956-97." World's largest traveling photojournalism exhibit. Reception tonight at 7pm. Exhibit thru 5/30. SFAC Gallery, Veterans Bldg, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080

## Thur

### Barbara Seyda & Diana Herrera

Read from *Women in Love: Portraits and Stories of Lesbian Families*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.



Noe Valley Chamber Music presents *The Whole Noyse*. See Sunday.

### The Blue Angel

SMUIN Ballets/SF spring season, incl. *Carmina Burana*, *Cyrano*, more. \$30-\$35. Thru 5/17. Call for program, times; tonight at 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard. 978-2787.

### Brave

Art Street Theatre's play created and performed by Jordon Flato, Mark Jackson, Lisa Maher, more. \$10-\$15. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/30. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 751-5922.

### Braunstein/Quay Gallery

Exhibit of work by Tom Bolles & Patricia Tobacco Forrester. Reception tonight at 5:30pm; exhibit thru 5/30. Braunstein/Quay, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

### Catherine Clark Gallery

Exhibit of paintings by Angela Lim, Anne Siems, & Gergria Kohn Smith. Reception tonight at 5:30; exhibit through 5/30. Catherine Clark, 49 Geary, 2nd floor. 399-1439.

### City Beat

New queer live variety talk show with hostess Chablis: entertainment, interviews, community info, gay soap opera, more! 9pm on cable channel 53.

### Goddess on a Payroll

Comedy by Monica Grant: parody of everything from prison to Xena, Warrior Princess. \$10-\$25. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/16. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

### Human Rights & the Drug War

Photo exhibit chronicling human faces of U.S.'s war on drugs. Free. Reception tonight at 6pm; exhibit thru 6/19. SF Main Library, Civic Center.

### Intervista & ROG

Video by Fifth Floor and dance-theatre by Torque: exploring power and social ritual. \$9-\$14. Thur.-Sun. at 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

### Ka-Boing

Run For Your Life...it's a dance co. presents performance collaboration between dancers and animators. \$12.50-\$16.50. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm; thru 5/10. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

### Rashomon

SFSU Theatre Arts Dept. presents Fay and Michael Kanin's drama of Medieval Japan. \$9. Thru 5/9. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. McKenna Theatre, Creative Arts Bldg, 1600 Holloway. 338-2467.

### Up Jumped Springtime

AFROBLUESOULPOWER presents play adapted by Colman Domingo from *Brother to Brother*. \$12-\$21. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm & 7pm; thru 6/6. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### Waxworks

Network Theatre Co. presents: musical comedy mystery in a wax museum. \$32.50-\$35. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/31. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. 441-4042.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Eric M. Rose  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

## This Week's Dinner Specials



Grilled Salmon on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes with vegetable ragout ..... 9.75

Chicken Cordon Bleu--stuffed with baked ham & fontina cheese, chef's rice ..... 8.95

Chicken Stroganoff with mushrooms, marsala wine & sour cream on fettucini pasta ..... 8.95

N.Y. Pepper Steak with creamy brandy sauce, onion rings & french fries ..... 11.95

PRIME RIB au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish ..... 12.95

### Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th  
Breakfast/Lunch served from 9:00 AM  
Dinner from 5:00 PM nightly

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"MAD AS HELL AND FUNNY AS HELL"

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THE VILLAGE VOICE

MAY 1-9, FRI-SUN & THURS-SAT  
8PM, \$12



**Special Guest:**  
**Karla Carmony**

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MAY 2: SABRINA MATTHEWS, DAN ROTHENBERG, MAUREEN BROWNSEY

OPEN MIC MUSIC TUES 8PM / OPEN MIC GAY COMEDY MON 8PM with KAREN RIPLEY

**DERANGED DURANG:** FOUR ONE-ACT PLAYS BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG  
APRIL 18-MAY 10 SAT-SUN SAT - 12 MIDNIGHT \$5, SUN - 5PM \$7

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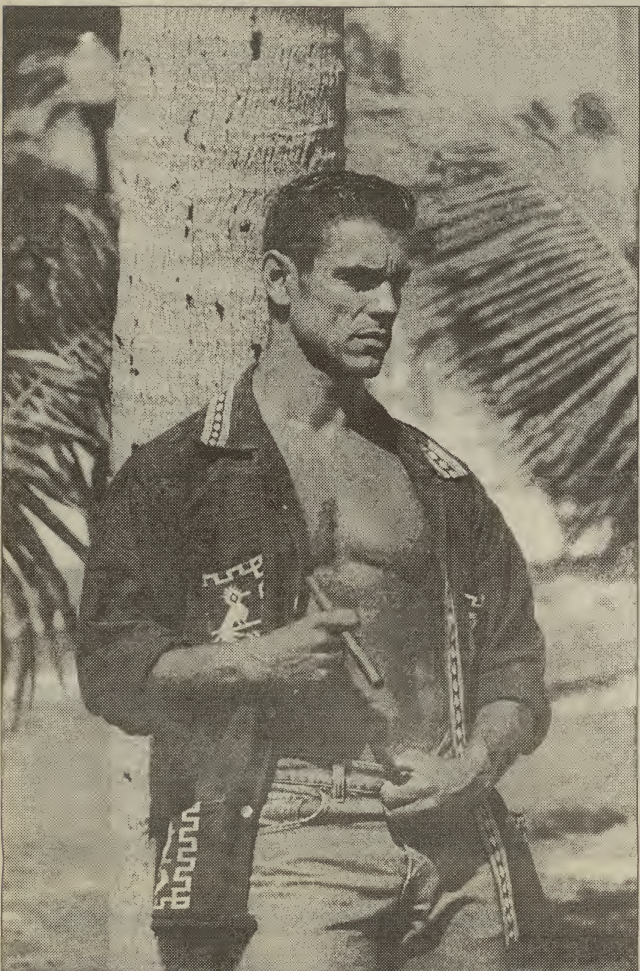


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### PARTING GLANCES

**ISO Kitty Glamour**  
Horny, hung, handsome Italian seeks companionship of the most beautiful Drag Queen in all of San Francisco. Please call Queen. I want to offer marriage! 1900 1900

**Cute Asian gas station Castro**  
It was weekend night you filled gas at Castro. Had Honda we both saw each other you gave gift you wanted to do "it". Looking for place, time, car, lost you. 1901

**Quest Primary Care 3-20**  
You: Blond hair & beard, great blue eyes and smile wearing leather jacket. Me: Short brown hair & beard wearing green "Virgin" cap. Would love to meet you. Interested? 1902

**3/19 Wed #14 Bus Mission 10pm**  
You got off w/your friends at 30th st. couldn't follow. But let's do lunch & change it as another expense- GAM 1903

**My Place - 1 yr ago**  
You: Hunkey, chocolate man from Danville, VA. Me: Big white mustache, originally from NO. VA. Think about you often. Dinner? Date? 1904

**3/26 Mike-this ones for you!**  
Met-Hole in The Wall. Then late evening meal in Castro. Thanks! To bad things didn't work out?-. We would have had a really fine time! Ron Martinez. 1905

**We've met B-4 saw you Fri 3/27**  
On Castro aft. 6. You came out of a care. Me: GBM black jacket we stared as companionship. I'd love to talk to you. 1906

**Latin explosion 4/10 Lucky cap**  
& jeans dancing. Lets exchange hat for a French Beau-rar. Black and white photos. 1900

**Tim at World Gym 4/14**  
We met in the Hot Room. Would like to have dinner with you. Patrick, the Asian guy. 2001

**ISO: Brian .H**  
Last saw you April 3rd. You caught my heart & hard-on. Please contact me ASAP. Would like to take you out on a date. Pls call soon! 2002

**Blow Buddies and you used t-shirt**  
2/8 Unfortunately I saw and responded to your ad after your mailbox had closed. That handsome thing sure sounds familiar. Dinner is definitely a go. 2003

**Harveys Sat 4/18 Bpm**  
You: great smile, leather jacket, carrying video. Me: Asian at table with friends. We smiled. Wanted to say hi but you left too soon. Wanna meet for coffee? 2001

**Steamworks Jan 31st**  
You, hunkey Asian (po). Me caucasian, goatee, blindfold. Would love to pick-up where we left off. Forgot to get your number. 2002

**Rainbow Grocery check-out 4/5**  
You: Light skinned Blk guy, beautiful eyes, w/white sweatshirt in checkout. Me: Latin/Asian guy w/Green sweatshirt and blue cap. Spoke briefly. You drove away in green Honda. Coffee? 2000

**450 Castro-Good Friday**  
We met in elevator, chatting from appointments around 3:00. You had on brown cowboy boots; coming about your upcoming foot surgery. Like to share more than an elevator ride? Please call. 2003

**Metro 4/10/98**  
You: long sleeve white t-shirt, mustache, very attractive with 3 friends. Me: green shirt, beard with 1 friend. Kept looking no time to talk would like to. 2004

**Richard T of 510**  
You: MGR. of furniture store, sexy dark features, I tried to call you back, but lost your number. You came by 3/17 at 5:30. Call me: Michael Quintal. 2005

**Blue Miata 03/01 Responds!!!!**  
Saw your ad but it was too late. I am the one in express line Safeway Mkt. St. Would like to meet. Please Call ASAP!! 2006

**Russel 3/21 PowerHouse W/B**  
Party- told you, you're what I was looking for. I meant it, me white haired Daddy. 2007

**Mar 21st PowerHouse W/B party**  
Vince Iron Oak I'm in Marin W/O attitude how about my place not My Place. 2008

**Steam Wrks Easter Sun Noon**  
Ron you came to my V. room first, later more fun with you in room 217. Let's do it again! 2100

**David of Oakland**  
Had a great time with you @ Blow Buddies, and then again in the East Bay. Would like to see you again. Call Chris. 2101

**Castro Theater 4/11 you passed**  
by me as I was standing in line for the animation festival. You: blue plaid shirt, mustache, jeans. Me: Cap, Syracuse Univ. sweatshirt. We spoke when you walked by the 2nd time. Let's meet! 2102

**GAM W/glasses at My Place 4/18**  
Made eye contact and exchanged smiles between 1 and 2 am. Me: GBM wbeard. Was with my partner. We both found you attractive. Interested in a 3-way get together. 2103

**Kitty glamour where are you?**  
My heart is breaking. I broke up with boyfriend to be with you. Please call me, I need you in my life! 2104

**Parke at TD'S**  
You came in on 4-13-98, 8:40 Sat near pool table. You asked if I was a pool shark. We talked. You had a job interview wish I asked for your number. 2106

**Mark from M.D.T.V**  
We walked passed each other on Bush St. 4/25/98 @ 8:00pm. I said, I like your show. Coffee? 2107

**Union Square Garage**  
April 13th (mon) 10am. You were fixing the lights on level 3. We looked at each other. I smiled. Too shy to talk. Love to hear from you. 2107

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Looking for true love**  
Cute guy in 40s, looking for true love. I'm a GWM professional, 160#, 6' tall, into current events, movies and romantic times. Seeking masculine, secure, fun-loving GWM between 28-55. 1907

**A smile on your heart**  
Hugs & kisses come 1st. My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: Top attrac. GWM 48, 6'5", 250, large husky-stocky build, brown hair/mustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: Attract, GWM, 21-40, slim, smooth/moderate body hair. 1908

**Big brain big heart big dick**  
Seeks same for playful romance, intense conversation, and passionate sex. I'm a college teacher, 33, 195#, 6'1", goateed, HIV neg. You're 20-40 medium/slim, HIV neg. 1909

**Valley men**  
50, average, seeking mature GWMs Modesto/Stockton. Mutual admiration. Brenda Health club Browners. Talk, walk, think, do. 1910

**I love blue eyes & tall man**  
Cute Southeastern GWM, 32yo, 5'7", 135#, b/bw affectionate, healthy HIV+, would like to find one attractive GWM 5'9" & up, height/weight proportionate. Age is open. 1911

**Let's date! Me: GWM 45, 5'9"**  
165#, Drk. HIV+, fit, sane, N/D. Bottom: Spiritual. You: Want relationship, taller, top, humorous, like healthy fun. 1912

**Why I'm a good cocksucker:**  
Because it's the best way to get a mouthful of your hot cum, fresh from factory. Why I'm a really good cocksucker: Two mouthfuls! 1913

**Back-to-basics cocksucking**  
We can chat another time, right now I'll just suck you off, rather well too! Object: Helly sourd of your maximized load. Beats caviar!! 1914

**Bearded Husky N2 TT + FF**  
Need ongoing spiritual revelation w/leather HIV+ versatile top. GWM/GWM N2 didos, TT, FF. Me, GBM, 6'1", 200# short hair and goatee. Need a soulmate.. 1915

**Bright eyes seeking Asian love**  
If you are slim, smooth, clean shaven GWM. This 6'-185#, Br/HZ GWM would like to meet for possible LTR. I'm like to meet for possible LTR. I'm honest, kind, loving, sincere, affectionate. 1916

**East Bay sensual man desired**  
For GWM, 41, decent man. Love to touch, kiss, cuddle. Enjoy walks, film, books, museums, conversation, spirituality. Desire safe, sane, honest man like me, better than average, to warm up spring. 1917

**GAM ISO GWM for LTR**  
Smooth, quiet and attractive Koren Gay (6'-160#), ISO White male for companionship, friendship and possible LTR. 2004

**Chicano has no luck**  
I'm 5'7", 160, muscular, student. I'm not too picky but I always meet unemotional, workaholic, needy or club crazy guys. If you are not an extremist, respond. N/S. 2005

**I survived where are you?**  
You! 40, spiritual, handsome, bottom-quiet Southerner, HIV- ready to conquer the world with the right man. ISO or Soulmate. Take me I'm yours! 2006

**My perfect mate**  
GWM, greatlooking, great body, HIV-, early 30s. Successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic. Seeks same. S. 2007

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking Latino 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for woman between 25-37 yo for friendship or more. Just call. 2008

**Outdoors Man**  
WM, 33yrs, HIV+, 5'10", 170#. Attractive, healthy, mind body & spirit. Beaches, hiking, tennis, looking for Black, Latino, White male, top, masculine, sincere, healthy 25-35. Fun. 2009

**Where is Daddy's Boy**  
Dad: 54yo, 6', 185#, very fit, goatee, balding, uninhibited, versatile, playful. You: Very fit, likes to please, Lewis, loyal, and if chemistry is right, share life, BLK, Latin A+ 2011

**Big dick/muscle build**  
Got your attention? Black guy, tan, 35, beard, HIV-, open to possibilities. More than just sex-Hell, I can do that by myself! 2012

**I'm seeking younger sexy man**  
For ongoing romantic-sexual times. I am 74, 5'8", 170# and you are under 40 and prefers a mature man both in and out of bed. Open to LTR. 2023

**Go with love**  
I believe in partners for everything: adventure, friendship, and romance. GM seeks mate for partner. Me: Tall, late 30s. You: Slim, late 30s. You're nobody till somebody loves you. 2014

**HIV+ GWM 30s**  
5'11", 158#, grey hair, have traveled extensively, and I'm a happy person. 5 years ago I lost my lover and I finally feel ready to be with a man for sex (I'm a top) companionship, movies, theater, opera, ballet, etc. I'm dining out. Give me a call and let's see if the shoe fits! 2015

**Comfortable shoes**  
I'm a good-looking masculine 60 GWM, 5'9", 158#, grey hair, have traveled extensively, and I'm a happy person. 5 years ago I lost my lover and I finally feel ready to be with a man for sex (I'm a top) companionship, movies, theater, opera, ballet, etc. I'm dining out. Give me a call and let's see if the shoe fits! 2015

**ISO nice guy top**  
Attractive WM, 45, 5'7", 150, HIV-, good shape looking for masculine, similar size man, sense of humor, sometimes dominant, 40s. 2021

**Sometimes silly!**  
GWM, 45, 6'10", trim/toned, brn(receding)/Hzle, healthy HIV+, fun-loving, irreverent, affectionate/independent, sexually adventurous (vers/btm). Likes film, theatre, ballet, football, golf (go figure!) ISO secure GWM 35-48, inshape to share some/all of above. Richard. 2016

**GBM, Professional.**  
40s, 5'11", 190#, Oakland: Enjoy theater, dining, movies and cuddling. HIV+. Good health. ISO GWM 35-45yrs, similar interest. Friendship/LTR. 2017

**The search is over-E. Bay**  
Handsome 28yo GWM in the E. Bay looking for love. I'm 6'2", blondish, brown, 190#, gym toned. Seeking loving, honest, sweet, HIV+ male for LTR. I love animals, outdoors, cooking, movies. I want to give you more than honest friendship and great sex, I want to give you my heart! 2020

**Attr GWM Beartype nudist SF**  
39, 6'2", 240# and losing, wants GWM/LatAM in SF 35-45, slim, medium or natural build, dating, poss LTR. Movies, music, kiss, talk, cuddle, play, sex too. Pref NS/Ndrug, serious only please. 2019

**Black & White in color**  
Trustworthy GWM with design for living seeks loving Black male for intimate romance and passion. Me: tall, muscular, handsome, open. Pref outgoing romantic, fit and muscular. 2020

**Tall goodlooking guy ISO mate**  
Me: Hard, bulky body. Fun loving, smart, Bohemian. Mostly top. You: slim built, top, sensuous, clever mind, real. Know how to love and be loved in return. 2021

**Where are you? Oakland area?**  
Black male 51, 5'9", 170, in shape HIV-, seeks a quality, masculine looking White male 36-70 for physical, emotional involvement. 2022

**Aggressive Black men**  
I wish to service Black men for LTR. GWM needs to use his deep throat to suck men for hours. I'm insatiable-cum many times. I'm yours. 2023

**My regular cocksucking service**  
Is what you may want to book once you shoot your first extra big load, maximized by my deep throat techniques. Twice weekly? OK 3 times! 2009

**It's not your nice hard dick**  
Any size OK (uncut with cheese A+) but your gigantic load that keeps me going back down for more. 450 Sutter says "Keep sucking, it's the best there is!" 2010

**Tired of the games!**  
Quality GAM, 38, 5'8", 140#, professional, clean shaven seeks other quality men for dating & possibly LTR. Pls. be honest & sincere. 2011

**Insatiable bottom seeks tops**  
Fil/AM 46yo bottom looks 30s. 5'9", 160#, Lt. smoker non drinker. Seeks tops 8 1/2 +. I'm handsome, love good smoke. Drug/disease free. Tight ass deep throat. 2012

**East Bay Latino ISO Black Male**  
34, 5'9", 155, attractive, healthy, youthful, smooth face/body. You: masculine, good shape 27-45, appreciates honesty, kindness, nature, for friendship or possible LTR. 2013

**Daddy knows best!**  
5'8", 165#, Nordic top man seeks Mediterranean bottom to service 8" dick, hairy HIV+, deferential attitude preferred. 2014

**5'6, 130#, seeks bigger hairy man**  
Young-looking & feeling 48yo GWM seeks romance w/GWM in 30s-40s. Me: meta-physical yet practical but wanting spontaneity. You: patient & aggressive yet gentle, both of us: willing to teach & learn. 2015

**Handsome, hunky, loving, fun**  
Quality GWM, 35yo, 5'10", 170#, professional, clean shaven seeks relationship and possible LTR. I'm 6'2", 190# 40s, 45", 15", 32", very muscular, rugged handsome Italian. I'm soulful, loyal, sincere, exclusive, professional, healthy as a horse. HIV+ non progressor. I'm sexually charged from puppy to leather. Looking for similar 35-45yo, GWM, who is grounded, successful, secure, who has experienced and wants a grade A relationship, full of mental, emotional exploration with new limits. A man to look me in the heart, die for my body, and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Serious only. Please call. 2016

**If you want you can have**  
Caring, thoughtful, BM prof. 40s, looking for LTR with experienced WM bottom who's physically and emotionally available as I am and desires a monogamous union. Pls. be 45-55, clean shaven and under 6', med heavy set OK. 2017

**GAM seeks GWM lets share fun**  
On a reg basis and more. You GWM HIV-, N/S, N/D, stable. Enjoy life, HTWT proportionate. Versatile & slim A+. 2018

**Hot, older brother wants to suck**  
Stip brothers & uncles uncut cocks with 8" + any color while we watch porno. I'm 38, tattoos, buzzcut, 190#, HIV-, tall, hung 8" cut, & love showing off. 2019

**Seeks attractive Asian male.**  
VGL GWM, 24, German/AM, blonde hair blue eyes, 5'11", ISO working student new to SF athletic into swimming, gym, backpacking, personality, friendly, spontaneous, seeks friendship maybe more. Knob Hill. 2020

**HIV+ BLK male seeks partner**  
Friend. Handsome, 6', 220#, healthy mind/body a soul. Love's the outdoor, camping, cooking & kite flying. You: honest, adventurous, 30+, any race. Love travel, energetic! 2022

**Sometime this Year?**  
Goodlooking 26, White/Italian 6'1", 165#, Br/bw, athletic, work out. Straight acting, fun-loving and honest. ISO, Latin or dark hair under 30. Good cook and honest for friends and maybe more. 2023

**Looking for good times**  
Shy bner, GWM, 5'7", 5'10", 150#. Seeking HIV-, friends 50 and under. Enjoy giving blow jobs. No reciprocation necessary. Black or Latin A+. Having someone watch A+. 2024

**Seeking HIV+ Eastbay Top**  
Black, Brown or deeply tan with mustache preferred. HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, bl/bw, mustached, smoker, wants to kickback and snuggle by fireplace LTR with local Capricorn or Virgo. 2025

**Tired of the flakiness?**  
ISO someone honest, patient, good communication, 50 and under. I love animals, outdoors, cooking, movies. I want to give you more than honest friendship and great sex, I want to give you my heart! 2026

**Clark Kent Adman from New York**  
Romantic, versatile top, GWM, 39, look 31, 6'1", 173#, Br/bw drug/smoke free, hugging on hilltops, hiking, piano bars, Discos, erotic massage, cooking, trust, partnership, life with mission-passion-purpose. 2027

**GWM 31 seeks romance**  
Ital/German, 5'9", 155#, fit masc. bottom. Enjoys camp art and dining out. ISO GWM/Lat men, 30-40 yrs old. With sense of humor and adventure for fun and romance. 2108

**Forever true love**  
GAM, 31, 5'11", 140#. Looking for a true love. Don't expect too much, just show me the real you - GWM, 31-45, normal shape, looking, occupation. 2109

**I want a Latino**  
35, 6'1", 162#, Blonde, Blue, Good looking, nice body, HIV-, mostly bottom, not into bars ISO stable, masculine, nice looking, good body, HIV- of good character. NS, ND. 2110

**Attractive Latino**  
Good looking Latino 32 yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 yo for friendship or more. Just call. 2111

**ISO Latin Fever**  
I'm looking for someone 18-28, 9's or more, with a swimmers build, for fun hot times, mabe LTR. Im 33, 5'6", brn/gln, 160#. 2112

**Asian/Am bottom seeks top's**  
Me: 5'9", 160#, br/bw cleanshaven HIV-, I smoker non-drinker SF Bay Area seeks 8+ tops for LTR. I'm an insatiable bottom looking for same in a top sincere only please. 2113

**Scrumptious!**  
Very goodlooking, unique, SGWM(P), 6', 170#, energetic, multi-talented, sincere, dedicated, Into: nature, photography, domestics. Seeks SGWM, 26-44yo, good-looking, self-assured, fun, dark-hair/eyes +! Dating: goal LTR. 2114

**Retired GWM seeks companion**  
Retired GWM, 57", seeks similar (Asians a +) for fun, frolic and! I enjoy movies, scenic drives and quiet evenings. NS. NS. Prefer SF or Peninsula. 2115

**Dad here**  
Here's this. Dad expert, GWM, 50, peak health, emotional depth, worldly-wise. Offer total experience. Son: 18-40, any race be ready for challenge and growth. 2116

**Let's be real**  
GWM, 30yrs, 5'7", slender long dark hair LKG for GBM 30-40 clean cut good looking- enjoys fun movies, TV bars, smoking. Let's forget the health care. 2117

**Asian seeking professional man**  
GAM, 50, financially secure, HWP, NS, ND. Enjoys travel, the arts, restaurants. Seeking mature, healthy, quality man for friendship LTR. Prefer educated. 2118

**Share a bed**  
In nice Russian Hill apartment with attractive, adventurous, masculine guy. Rent negotiable to right guy under 30 who is honest, slender, hung, fun, and. 2119

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Foreskin service**  
W/M 45 hairy, hung and hungry for uncut stud with big veyn foreskin dick, unload on my face love that foreskin, I'm in Sonoma County. 1822

**Heavy masculine top San Jose**  
I'm 59", 260, about 40, lusty, bright, manly, always hard, but I find a sweet, young lad (under 36), slim, for sex, friendship, maybe more, in San Jose. Answer all! 1918

**Never can bet enough**  
If you are a top and you like your dick sucked and you can fuck for hours. Answer this ad. 6', 170, 38, and med hairy. 1919

**Wanted: Big Hairy Firm Butt**  
Well built aggressive top, big firm, needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. 1920

**Older husband HIV+ bottom**  
55, hard body gym toned, 5'11", 170#, seeks top for fucking, suckling, kinky OK to. 2140

**Hot bottom ISO 2 Tops in E-Bay**  
GLM, 30, 5'10", 175, Goodlooking with nice body. ISO 2 hot tops to use on reg basis, you should be HIV- goodlooking 35-45yrs, masc & aggressive. 1921



**Want to serve Daddy**

Novice GWM 28, 6'4", 220#, mostly bottom, bl/ck, average build ISO Dad for training in obedience, leather, bondage. Be 35-55, clean, HIV- fit to stock. 2022

**Do your weenie a big favor!!**

And put it in my toothless mouth (all the way in). GWM masc. clean and healthy seeks same, your weenie & me will thank you. 2023

**Hot hungry white ass**

Muscular mature bottom in Oakland seeks hung tops who love fucking and using rock hard ass & nice tits on healthy HIV+. Shaved head 5'3", 135lb. Smooth defined bod. 2024

**Got to have a cock suck**

GWM, 5'11", 170, N/S, ND, likes to suck & get fucked by a Latino, Black, White with at least 6 1/2" and play with your balls age not factor, call. 2025

**Hiv+ show/examine/eat assholes**

With Asian men. Shameless total prolonged sensual exploration, especially of holes, endless rimming/kissing, photos, fantasy play, public adventures, shaving, performing. GWM, 41, 5'11", 165, goat-tee, 7x5, avg. looks. 2026

**My one and really only**

Reason to suck you off is to get your load. Since a really good blow job maximizes your production, count on me for the most creative possible work on your dick. 2027

**57 GWM service perverser**

Seeking master/top to please and obey. Subject is sucker and fuckee. Any ethnicity or age. Ongoing relationship desired. Late, Late, we A+. Subject is HIV+. 2028

**Amateur cocksuckers**

Think they do it for big dicks. Us pros know better (and do better jobs!) big loads are all that matters. Let's see how big we can make yours. 2029

**Want to play with something?**

Big, hairy 8 thick uncut inches on a hot insulate blond top. If your insulate, sincere fun, bottom leave a massage now!!! 2030

**Oakland guy**

W/M, 33, HIV+ and healthy seeks other positive guys for mutual J/O and oral. Shaved a plus. Let's get naked. 2031

**Ass sucker for bottoms**

Love to suck your hole before & after you get fucked. Try my hot mouth. 2032

**Ready willing and able bottom**

Seeks hung like a horse top. GWM 38, goodlooking fit, into hiking, movies, dining out, clean shaven. Seek top with similar int. 35-43. No smokers HIV- only. 2024

**Struggle for top cum**

GWM, 5'10", 170.51, very furry chest, in shape, HIV-, will take on aggressive men. Wrestling, boxing, fantasy scenes. Loser needs to worship body of winner. 2025

**Got Dick?**

BM looking for male wanting oral service at your place. Help me get the practice I need. BM, Hispanic, European, Middle Eastern A++ 2026

**Aggressive top seeks**

Young Asian bottom. Dominant cauc. 5'10", 170#, 39yo, strong arms & legs, hairy chest, thick 8" cock wants hermudg Asian slut boy. Under 35, smooth with hungry butt & mouth for hot fuck sessions. 2028

**Pasivo, Hermano?**

Alameda/Oakland men top men seeks a masculine, Hispanic bottom who can take a behind. Major pluses: over 40 dark hair, moustache, olive skin. 2029

**Meet Swiss bottom**

GWM, 34, HIV-, 5'7", 180#, bl/bl, goat-tee, hairy chest, unc, bottom only, recently moved to SF, seeks handsome, nice, masculine tops for fun times and casual dating. 2030

**ISO older 40+ GM**

Seeking older 40+ hung unc mature GWM/GWM in San Jose area for some fun or maybe more. Me: muscular 40.5", w/lat 2" cock, L/S/D E-mail Qbot@hotmail.com 2031

**ISO BLK tops in E. Bay**

GLM 30, HIV- bottom, handsome with good body. ISO top BLK man into taking control of this hot bottom. You should be 30-50 goodlooking & very masculine. 2032

**Submissive bottom**

ISO masc., clean cut men in good shape to service attractive Wht. cleantank man, 5'9", 158#, hairy chest smooth butt, hung-guy mouth, deep throat at your service. 2033

**In-Fuckin-Credable mouth**

All-American boy-next-door ISO masculine, in-shape, white dude, under 35- who likes to just kick back. No reciprocation. The straight boys seem to appreciate me. 2034

**Bicepual!**

Well-defined baseball bi's get a noticeable rise out of me. Handsome, hard, healthy, and hung seeks another with great arms. 2035

**GWM seeks Hombre**

I am GWM 30ish, good looking, energetic, and deal guy seek to share entertainments plus sport. I love swimming, hiking, camping, rent VCR movies, bicycling, skiing, tennis, racquet, weightlifting to stay fit. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming female, hairy, ND and NS. I am attracted to Homies with wolf howls. If you are reading up to this point, please call and let's see if we can go out and have a blast time!! 2038

**SteamWorks Buddies**

Dude W/no car would like a ride to Berkeley, will pay for gas. 2128

**ISO men in Marin City**

San Rafael GWM, 5'2", 115#, HIV-, 56yo. Very tight hairy & tiny ass. Needs your cock to suck and fuck me good. Safe, sane & very discreet & have talented mouth, age open. Your place or mine, live drink & smoke or aroma. OK. All answered, be sincere. 2039

**Fuck me on my belly**

Hungry big white asshole wants to give it up to serious marathons assfucking studs- any age/race. Me: 46, 185# 5'10", stocky, shaved head/beard. 2040

**Take orders well?**

You: strip kneel, suck, get it doggy-style. I cum on your face. Me: 40, fit, hung B+. You: 21-35, fit, white. 2041

**My one and only reason to suck**

You is to be my reward, the gibber the better: your hot creamy fresh from the factory load. Bet you'll ask me back. I'll come if you cum! 2029

**Why your cum beats Caviar 4 me**

Spurts fresh, hot, direct from your balls. Superior human protein (top of food chain) Transfers emphasis from size of dick to size of load. Reg service good 4 us both. 2030

**Butt eaters alert!**

Looking for GWM into mutual rimming by mature GWM. Day time preferred. Videos, smoke, aroma OK. Looks & size not important. I'm HIV- U82. 2031

**Horny? Kick back & feed me**

Bottom stud, 44, 6', 180#, moustache, buzzcut, insatiable mouth, receptive "bottom" & luv to eat ass. Unlike any other. Call & get off!! 2032

**Load, pump and re-load**

Black bottom boy 38, 5'11", 150#, goat-tee, W/A, service hole for you to fill, pump, load & re-fill. You want it hot, wet, creamy & ready for deep-dick servicing. 1 on 1 or buddy fucks. You, serious HTWT prep. & ready to fuck! 2033

**Gut-punching**

Musc. GWM, seeks musc. defined guy, any race, 25-45, who gets off having his abs worked over, respecting limits, safe and sane. Smooth body a+ but not required. 2034

**Seeking flogging playmate**

Seeking playmate who enjoys administering flogging and bondage with role playing. I'm athletic, lean, and 45. 2035

**Hard body needs Big Bad rider**

50 to rim your body, defined musc, hard body get fucked and/or suck dick/WS 5'11", 170#, solid. HIV+ . Call me. 2036

**Masculine cock sucker here**

Handsome GWM, looking for masculine dude who needs constant service, likes to fuck. Fill me up. 2037

**Swiss bottom new in town!**

Swiss GWM, 34yo, bl/bl, goat-tee, unc, hairy chest, HIV-, straight-acting, professional seeks handsome masculine tops for discreet encounters. 2038

**Culprit it down real deep**

W/M 40s, HIV-, very masculine goodshape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV-, cocksucker w/ obedient tongue and hungry deer throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. 2039

**Black on Brown: Combina Perfecto**

Middle age, hung Black top man seeks a mature, husky, Hispanic bottom: Oakland/Alameda area. Olive skin, moustache, dark hair are big turn-ons. 2040

**It's about fucking**

My hole- your hole. Toys & spanking already have lover. Me: 6'2", 185#, 7' 1/2", cut, 50yrs old. HIV+ prefer 35-55 years old. 2041

**Goodlooking BLK. M38, 5'11"**

190#. Top looking for two other men of masc. stock Latino & BLK guy for some hot group action, 30-45 for long hot sessions and a little romance. A great kisser A++ must. No couples. 2027

**Strictly J/O in Alameda**

Muscle guy, w/ thick top, beefy football player ass, big balls, wanted by masculine SBM, 35, tan, muscled, beard, 8 1/2x6" dick, for long, sweaty, nasty stroke-sessions. 2042

**Small or slender slight men**

Wanted by 50 yo Masseuse who enjoys massaging skinny, slim, lean men. Free professional licensed Swedish massage (1hr) Daytime, Haight Panhandle area. 2037

**Window cock showoff**

Hot exhibitionist with big dick seeks hard cocks performing still in windows! Naked muscle and cock stroking for a big dick audience! Nice hard cock entertaining nightly! Jack off studs! 2036

**Sonoma Co. cock worshipper**

Middle-aged, attractive, healthy, generous, wants to be dominated by cute, slender guy, 18-40. Tell me what and how. I'll obey. 2043

**Young hot versatile college guy**

22, 145#, 5'10", good looking, 8" cut dick, cut, slim, WM, clean-shaven. Seeks masculine guys 20s/30s, hung, versatile, good looking, athletic, in-shape, for intense passionate encounters: fucking deep throating, kissing, cuddling exploring. 2044

**Top & versatile fuckers**

Wanted for group action call for info. 2134

**Construction workers Blown**

and trim hung cun. Blue collar guys kick back for hot sensual blow jobs. Married men A+, great sucking! 2045

**Yngr small cock 4 oral play**

Seek any younger guy, slim/mid, cut/clean, boyish, massage, oral/mutual, size, studliness not imp. WM, 33, brn/blu, lean, masculine, tall, med, sixer, easygoing. 2046

**Black men**

Wanted by submissive, willing to please, white bottom. Full oral/rimming/good butt fucking ETC. Prefer men 35 plus, desire size unimportant, regular servicing, LTR possible. Mature, funloving, open. 2047

**Horny hound**

Youngstud in Fremont seeks purebreds and mutts in Fremont area for horsin around in the fur on all fours. Interested? I'll bow wow wow for you. 2048

**Eat me, blow me, suck me, cocksuck**

WM, tall hairy stah 7", thick uncult big balls. Nasty verbal dad kicks back for obedient masculine bottom, eat my hairy asshole, lick balls. Follow orders. Verbal abuse. Must have moustache. 2120

**Blond top hung 8" thick**

Wanted to fill you up! I am insaphane handsome hairy chest 38 yrs, insatiable have a goat-tee and want active willing bottoms for fun. 2121

**Cock slave wanted**

I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. Have sling, bondage bars, toys etc. Take care of my dick, I'll take care of your needs. 2122

**A1 oral service - Delivered**

SF GWM, HIV-m-6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. 2123

**Naked in the shower**

Hot water and soap create a clean, refreshing sensual experience. Lean masculine WM 40 seeks another lean masculine young guy to share the ecstasy. 2124

**Trucker wanted on US I80**

For early morning delivery. Over-size load from big rig hanging from husky guys especially welcome. Start your day right! Should I bring coffee and donuts? 2125

**Marin & Nth Bay cocksucker**

GWM 55, 115#, 5'2". Likes to suck & be fucked, especially deep throating 7" or bigger. Clean cock, 8am til 8pm. My place. You 40+ older, race, look, unimportant, cut cock a+. 2126

**Long-haired relaxed type**

Sought by well-travelled (Asia, Asia Minor, Russia, Northern Mediterranean) trans California. If you've been around the block yourself, drop a line. 2127

**Insatiable bottom seeks tops**

Who want to kick back as I work my magic on your man meat & get you off. Italian, 44, 6', 180#, buzzcut, moustache, handsome, Hot! 2129

**Afternoon sex buddy wanted**

Ass massage-erotic spanking, oral give/take, hugs & kisses too. Me: attrac, top, GWM, 48, 6'5", 250#, large stocky build. You: attrac bottom, GM/white, asian, latin) slim, buns. 2130

**Roughing it!**

Masculine, submissive dude, 35, VGL, W/mouth, toned, toned bod, prefer dick, surley taught into raw sex, intense humiliation, rock hard bad attitude. 2131

**2 hot blonds seek 3rd for??**

1 top hung 8" 1 expert bottom, both fun and frisky, late 30s, hairy chest, goat-tees, very nice guys seek insaphane, hung guys for stimulating seaplay. 2132

**Searching for Irishmen**

GM, stocky, brn/blu, 40, oral bottom, ISO men 35-50, 5'9" + who can teach me how to take it in my virgin ass. Must be patient & sensual. Hairy a+. Sincere only. 2133

**Good oral service**

Goodlooking GWM, 37, 6', 190#, with dark short hair and blue eyes, seeks hot studs for servicing. Just lay back, whip it out and let me do the rest. 2135

**ISO dominant leather man**

WM, 41, 6' 168#, HIV+, healthy, submissive bottom. Handsome, masc. smooth, built, hot tits, ass, this pussy boy, sir is into leather, bondage, domination, no attitude you: in shape 30-50. 2136

**ISO Construction: country types**

Oral expert, masculine, GWM, deep throat, HIV-, will service musc/lat; country boys, 18-35, Sonoma County. If you not aggressive head. 2137

**ISO River area handball expert**

Annually centered healthy HIV-0, GWM, med experienced patient H8 top for weekly sessions. Well developed masculine outdoorsman appreciates a practiced hand. Mike in Marin, please call. 2138

**Naked slave wanted**

Sex toy/personal assistant sought-to clean, cook, garden-ongoing basis. Gladly offer up both ends to service tall, lean, sexy Sir (44 cauc, HIV-). Be: 30s, cute, good shape, in SF. NS/ND. Will train. 2139

**FETISHES**

GWM, 30, slim, into natural barefoot lifestyle always barefoot, everywhere. Wants similar guys with tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual ok. 2139

**Sex slave wanted**

Wants similar guys with tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual ok. 2139

**Scat top wanted**

Goodlooking guy, mid-30s, seeking similar for raunchy toilet action. I'm mostly bottom, but versatile. Let's get together. 2135

**Dad seeks son**

GWM, 54, 5'7", 140, masculine top, NS, HIV neg, hairy/Yu: passive, submissive, quiet, serious, HIV-, needing love/discipline, under age 32. 2136

**Fistcuffs**

Strong, tough, hairy skinhead fighter, 5'8", 152#, seeking buddies for sparring, fighting, 8-oz or smaller gloves, prefer bareknucks. UFC-style submission/KO fighting too. 2137

**Ouch!**

Spank me, tie me up, jack me off slowly, while looking into my eyes. Sexy boy, 31, 5'8", 130, seeks take charge man. S 2138

**Butt-Yumm**

Your butt hot enough to eat from? Love butts attached to top 18-40 who love their backside serviced as well as sum kinky times to it. 2139

**Day time Asshole eater**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro. 2047

**Long bearded Daddies N2 FF+ TT**

GHM/GWM husky lev/leather, HIV+ like long sessions w/dicks, TT/FF. Me: GBM, 6'1", 205#, sh/ S/P hair, moustache & genital. Need to stretch my limitations. Kissable!! 2049

**Explosive lust/shoes & barefeet**

Professionally successful, generous, GWM, businessman, early 40s, 5'9", 155#, fit attractive, seeks handsome guy to share fantasies about feet and shoes as foreplay to passionate, multi-dimensional activities. 2050

**Corporal punishment needed**

GWM, 40s requires old fashioned over the knee spanking and/or paddling on the seat of my pants, underwear & bare butt (W/ny pants & shorts pulled down). Discipline not S&M. Thank you sir! 2144

**Smokers**

Can't in bars, but still can in my bed. Handsome, 40, GWM, 5'10", 160#, ISO Marlboro men under 50 who like to smoke before, during, and after. 2051

**Ranch slave**

Hungry red head, 5'10", 165, good looking masculine seeks Rim/Piss top for intense regular service. 2052

**Pull down your pants...Stroke it!!**

Unbuckle your belt, open your fly. Hard-on in your underwear? Pants dropped? Attr: GWM, 40s into J/O, W/men. With our pants & shorts pulled down. Men (30+) in jeans, khakis, suits, uniforms all OK. White briefs or boxers A+. 2053

**Sneaker fetish**

I want to provide young jocks (18-35) with new Nikes/Adidas. Let me play with them and I'll buy you the latest styles. 2055

**Your feet my face**

Good looking, masculine guy wants to worship your feet with my hands and mouth. Kick back while I make you and your feet feel good. Curious? All welcome, no reciprocation necessary. 2056

**Discipline and punish**

Physical discourse on your 35 or under, 5'10", or less tight-bodied self-black, grey/red by my 40s, tall-booted full-leather self. Object: LTR with thinker, reader. 2141

**Hot for your own cock and jism?**

Big-cocked, horny dude, I like to throw my legs back and jerk a load into my throat. Hungry? Let me watch you eat your jism too. 2142

**Nasty imaginations**

Tops & bottoms, 18-45, into butt play, W/S & extreme ranching, 1st timers, alone or group, cum play with couple, one versatile and one submissive pig bottom. 2143

**Self suckers wanted!**

I want to watch you suck your own hard dick and shoot your cum in your mouth, maybe even fuck you while you are sucking on your hot dick. I'm a hard bodied, good looking 42 yo GWM, bald/buzz cut, goat-tee, hairy, uncult 6', 175#. Call me, I'll be waiting. All calls answered. 2145

**Thirsty deep throat expert**

Mature and submissive with a respectful attitude has a 6-pack of beer for well endowed men who will quench his thirst. 2146

**COUPLES****Bl WM seeks white M/F couple**

Bl white male, brn/b, 6', 160#, tall trim defined body, attractive, seeks white male/female couple for sex. 2140

**Tag-Team wrestling**

Two tough, hairy, experienced grapplers seek one-on-one/tag-team fights in private ring. Rough-house no-holds barred bouts only; no fantasy crap. Wrestling parties monthly too! 2141

**Sexy couple wanted for...**

Possible ongoing threesome. Me: 5'7", 145lbs, 32, toned, trim, well hung and versatile. Kissable from head to toe. Friendly, respectful, passionate & safe. 1843

**Seeking Poz for raw action**

Attractive, professional, interracial, HIV+, couple seeking masculine man who likes to get it orally and orally. U B 30s-50s like us. No BS please. E. Bay, SF, Russian River. 2056

**My pretty girl friend wants...**

A cute young boy to torment and torture. He'll strip/bd me, spank his buttocks & sexually assault his cock & balls. I will release! 2057

**You Two?**

GWM, 33, hot blond, 5'9", nice pecs, 7+. Ready for first 3 way with sexy couple. You both: 29-39, darker hair, masc, in-shape, HIV-. No scenes, respect boundaries. 2057

**OTHER****Masculine man-pussy in panties**



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BAY AREA REPORTER

## Out There

◀ page 30

alism. So we think the doyenne of the arts doth protest too much.

### Sign language

Movie magic impresario **Marc Huestis**, producer of such spectaculars at the Castro Theatre as "A John Waters X-mas" and "Valley of the Dolls," has packed the steamer trunks and is off to New York, where he'll be presenting "Mother's Day with **Christina Crawford**" on that day of all days in May, at the Town Hall. Huestis dubs this the "ultimate *Mommie Dearest* event" (let's hope so!) and promises it will include not only a screening of the camp classic 1981 film, and a conversation between Christina and über-queen film critic and author **Rex Reed**, but also actresses **Mara Hobel** (who played the young Christina) and **Rutanya Alda** (the quietly suffering maid Carol Anne) interviewed by performance artist **Reno**, and an appearance by **John Epperson** as **Lypsinka** as **Joan Crawford**. It



Joan, yet again

sounds like Huestis has pulled out all the stops for the Big Grapple.

But can you believe all that was just the set-up for the following pay-off?

All the more eerie, then, that Marc's horoscope last week in the Sunday funny papers (he's a Capricorn, natch) read thusly: "You've been grappling with a home-front issue for some time. It probably has something to do with something *Mommie Dearest* told you long, long ago. Maybe this time it's you who knows best."

A pretty coincidence, but as talk show irritant **Larry King** says, "Don't go away!" for the plot thickens (organ pipes up). The story on the street is that this horoscope columnist actually passed on to the great beyond late last year, but had prepared all her columns for the year in advance. That means this dead-on prediction comes express-mail from beyond the grave. Spooky.

As we've told Mr. H on at least a few occasions, his next production should be a revival of *Hollywood Squares* starring all the once-young starlets whose careers he's single-handedly rescued. As it happens, Huestis already has his new project all lined up without any help from us! More we cannot say (yet).

### Brain-dead edition

But slap us and stop us from being so frivolous. Veteran newspaperman **Pete Hamill** has just published a book-length essay on the state of journalism today entitled *News Is a Verb*. Right, Pete — and flatulence is an adjective. Hamill's exhortation mostly runs along the usual lines (the dangers of celebrity journalism and infotainment), but he has some piquant things to say about the news biz, including the telling observation that he saw more scandal footage of **Monica** being hugged by **Bill** in the midst of a campaign crowd than he ever saw the **Zapruder** film following the **Kennedy** assassination.

Hamill also laments the boom in what he calls "necrojournalism," to wit: "We read page-one stories about **Marilyn Monroe**, dead for thirty-five years; John F.



Pete Hamill

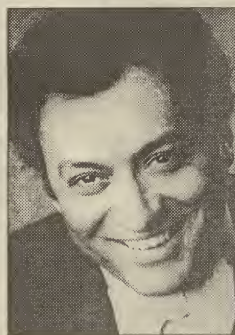
Kennedy, dead for thirty-four years; **Jacqueline Onassis**, dead for four years; **Frank Sinatra**, nearly dead; ... **Marv Albert**, whose career was dead; and, of course, **[Donald] Trump**, who was brain-dead. The great fear in certain newspaper city rooms was that **Sinatra**, **Ronald Reagan**, **Bob Hope**, **Boris Yeltsin**, and the **Pope** would all die on the same day. To match the space given to **Princess Di**, they'd need to add 160 pages in special supplements alone." It sounds to us as if Hamill should be writing Out There: he's a natural with the bold-face names.

Hamill also declares, "Every newspaper should promote its stars, regardless of gender: the columnists and prizewinners. It should never spend a dime on promoting the publisher, about whom the general public doesn't give a rat's ass." Memo to *Bay Guardian* publisher **Bruce B. Brugmann**: Cancel that next round of bus, taxi, and billboard ads!

### Maestro-baiting

Speaking of mojo journalism, is it presumptuous of us to ask how some other alternative weeklies can claim to cover the city's arts scene without ever reviewing the SF Symphony, Opera, Ballet, or any of the other recitals and concerts in SF's vibrant classical music scene? In the past two weeks alone, and just in Davies Hall, we have witnessed composer **Marti Epstein** receiving spirited

next page ▶



Conductor Zubin Mehta

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Designed By Billy Roby

## Lavender Tube

◀ page 38

gering more issues for Bayliss as he worked the case. At dinner later with the new female detective on the squad, he attempted to explain why their date had gone awry. "I'm not gay... But when I've been involved with men I've thought about women, and when I've been with women I've thought about men. I always thought if I told anyone who I really was, they would run away."

This is the kind of thoughtful, honest, realistic depiction of the complexities of sexuality that one

never sees on prime-time programming. Kyle Secor has invested this entire storyline with depth and vulnerability, expressing Bayliss's conflicts as multidimensional and complicated. (Last season he went to see the victimizing uncle and found a drunken, broken old man, not the person he wanted to throttle and rage against.) There are many who will be disappointed that Bayliss appears to be embarking on a heterosexual relationship, but his acknowledgment of his bisexuality was both poignant and groundbreaking. Perhaps someone could send a tape of the episode to Loulan? ▼



## BOOKS

## Out There

◀ previous page

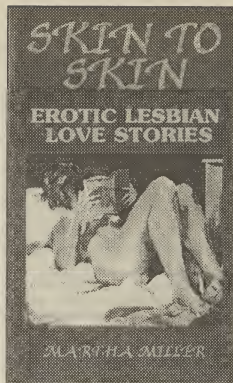
applause for the premiere of her *Celestial Navigation*, pianist **Alicia de Larrocha**, at 75, turning in a sparkling performance of **Mozart's** last piano concerto; and orchestrations of **Debussy** etudes by the newest Pulitzer Prize-winner on the block, composer **Aaron Jay Kernis**.

Kernis scored fame and notoriety early on, when as an adolescent prodigy he chided maestro **Zubin Mehta** in front of a rehearsal audience for not paying closer attention to his scoring. You don't talk back to the maestro, but little Aaron Jay did, and he was right. The audience erupted into spontaneous applause.

## Fun down there

Finally, a little gossip from down south. Our LA source, a **decent sort of chap**, spotted **Courtney Love** at a fashion show looking like an unkempt pile in a loose red dress. Her now-dark hair was a mess with dragonfly barrettes, and she was lying across the lap of man sitting next to her in the front row, who looked like a cross between **Alice Cooper** past his prime and **Marilyn Manson**, who never had a prime. Still, we thought that the speech Love made at the MTV Awards was pretty great. She won for "Most Glamorous Star," or something ridiculous like that, and she said something like, "It's been fun getting make-overs, but I think I looked pretty fucking great before all this." Then she went on to deliver a spirited defense of gay rights. We think her friend makeup artist **Kevin AuCoin** brainwashed her.

This same intrepid source showed up at the **Magic Johnson** Foundation fashion show the next night, where he was able to worm his way into a pack of groupies surrounding Lakers player **Kobe Bryant**, 20, the hot young talent who went straight from his high school basketball team to pro ball. "Decent Dan" put out his paw, and in all the confusion was able to squeeze young Mr. Bryant's sizable bicep. That's what we call making the play-offs. ▼



## Eros explored

by Deborah Peifer

*Skin To Skin: Erotic Lesbian Love Stories* by Martha Miller; New Victoria, \$12.95

**S**kin To Skin is a remarkable collection of short fiction, but don't be misled by the word erotic in the title. These stories deal with Eros in many guises, but don't assume that this is a book to be read one-handed.

I almost didn't finish this collection, because the third story contains what may be the most cruel sentence I've ever read. Explaining to the narrator just why she cheated on her, Danielle says bluntly: "I just wanted to be with someone pretty." It took my breath away, that calculated bit of meanness, but after a few days of shuddering at the thought, I was able to go back and finish both "Pretty" and the rest of these remarkable tales. "Last Trip to the Yukon" is a powerful tale of a friendship that cannot survive the decision of one of the parties to give up drugs. "Skin to Skin" is an extraordinary look at AIDS and the ways in which coping can mean taking serious risks with one's heart. When a new person

joins an AIDS support group, her statement, "I'm not sure I belong here," is followed first by stunned silence, and then the narrator's angry realization: "I wonder what the hell that means. But in the short silence that follows, I know. We've got our first innocent victim, and she's in the unique position of thinking she doesn't deserve to die."

Martha Miller is an artist with words. Using not one more than absolutely necessary, she sculpts small universes, peoples them with real and individual characters, then shows the way love hurts or heals or entertains. Filled with honest laughs and painful tears, *Skin To Skin* is a brilliant collection. I only hope Miller writes much more, and soon. ▼



## Withdrawn

by Deborah Peifer

*Gold Fever* by Lyn Denison; Naiad, \$11.95

**W**e've all had the great moment of betrayal in our lives, whether by a lover or a best friend or a parent, when our easy belief in the goodness of others is forever destroyed. For Kate Bannister, who loses her par-

ents in a devastating accident, only to be raised by an emotionally distant aunt, the love and companionship she finds at the home of her best friend, Ashley, make living possible for the lonely girl. When she and Ashley become lovers, Kate is ready for happily ever after. Discovered in bed by Ashley's mother, Kate learns that Ashley is willing to write her off in order to avoid scandal. Kate loses family and love in one terrible instant. Kate leaves her aunt's home, and the town where she was so hurt, and makes a solitary life for herself. After her aunt's death, Kate moves home to the house where she grew up, and finds that the past has a way of coming along for a present-day ride.

Lyn Denison writes of small events that tell volumes. Her characters, major and minor, are vividly drawn, and are a pleasure to love or to hate. Choosing a main character who has withdrawn from life takes a certain naiveté or considerable skill. Denison has the skill to make us long for this character's reawakening, and when it comes we feel that she, and we, have earned it. *Gold Fever* is more than romantic genre fiction. It offers a serious look at the ways we hurt each other and ourselves while it offers the possibility of healing, and maybe a little revenge. You will come to care about these women, to be entertained and moved by their lives. ▼

## Dead prose

by Deborah Peifer

*When the Dead Speak* by Therese Szymanski; Naiad, \$11.95

**W**hen last we left our hero, who was a decidedly unheroic, in fact quite villainous character, she was dead. At least all of her mortal enemies in Detroit thought so, because

Brett faked her own death so she could run away and play house with her true love, Allie. Now she's Samantha Peterson, so she can be called Sam, so butch, don't you know, though Allie keeps calling her Brett anyway, but no one seems to notice that funny name thing. The reason for the death faking had to do with the very real possibility that some Detroit bad guys would like to kill Brett, so of course, after a year in California, Brett and Allie move back to Michigan. Right.

They buy a house with cash, apparently a common occurrence in Alma, because it excites no comment, an odd thing for a small town, I think, but maybe Alma is different. The house is haunted, owing to a particularly grisly murder that took place in it at the very moment in 1967 when Brett was born. Within a very few pages, Allie and Brett decide to investigate the murder and prove that the convicted lover of the victim was not the real murderer. In order to do this investigating, Brett and Allie have to spend time making nuisances of themselves to the local police as well as to the town's journalists. If I were in hiding, in fear for my life, I would avoid situations that would bring my face and name (whichever I remembered to use that day) to the attention of strangers, but that may be because I lack good hiding skills.

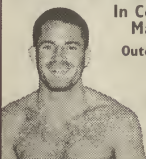
Time passes, as it will, whether we are reading something wonderful, or not, and the stories of everyone who ever knew the murdered girl, or her family, or her friends are told in excruciatingly pointless detail. Eventually all is solved, with our intrepid sleuths well behind the curve in terms of their detecting. If it takes you more than a few minutes to figure out who and why, you simply have not been paying attention. Sex occurs, as it will, whether it contains any hint of Eros, or not, with considerably more frequency than you might expect in a relationship where the women have fused so completely that they sound exactly alike. When the dead speak is when this reader will plow through another Brett Higgins mystery. I can only hope that won't be any time soon. ▼

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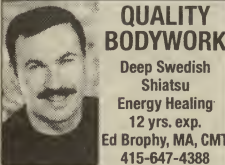
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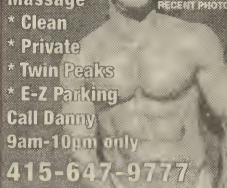
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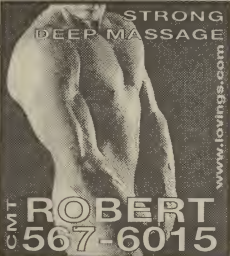
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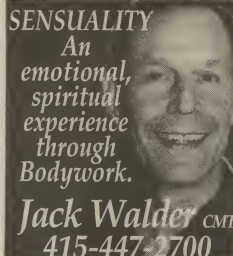


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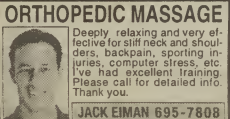
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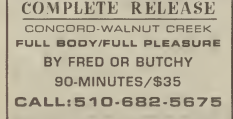
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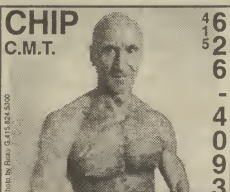
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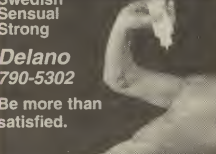
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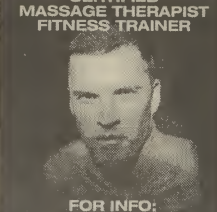
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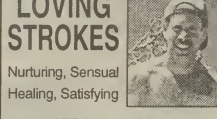
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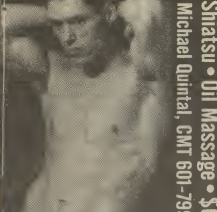
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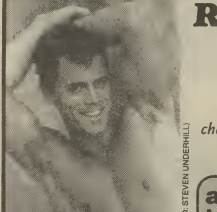
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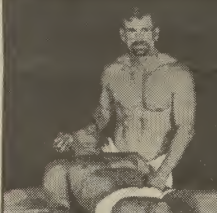
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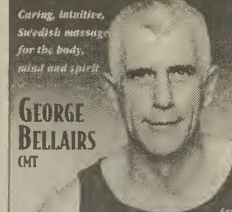
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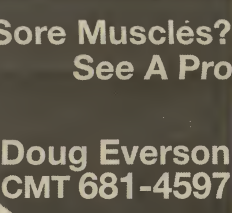
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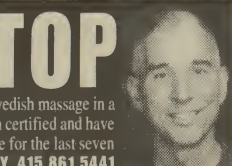
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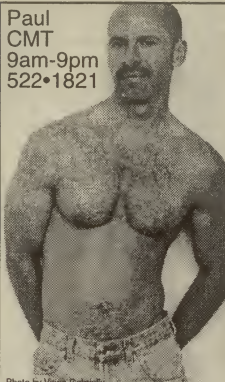
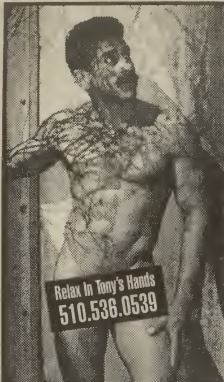
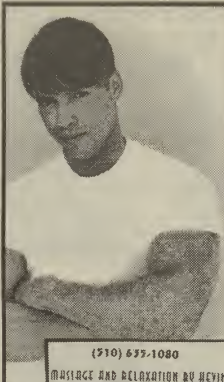


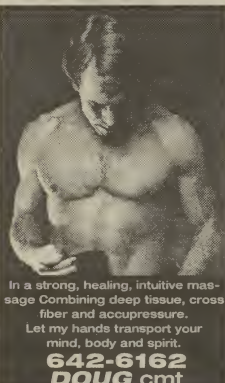
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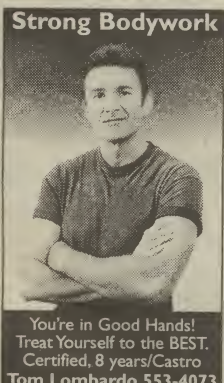


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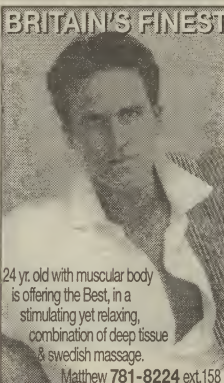
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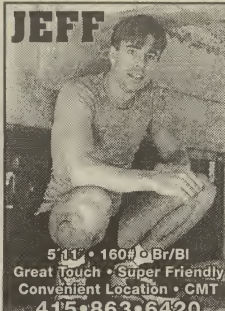
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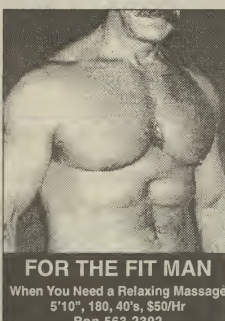


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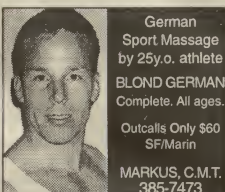
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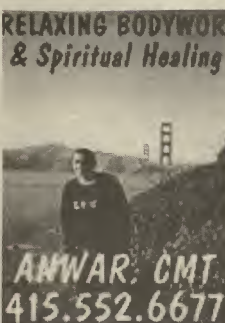


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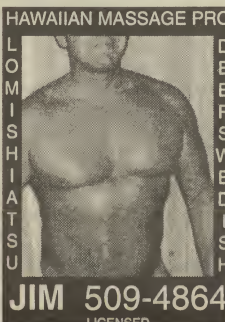
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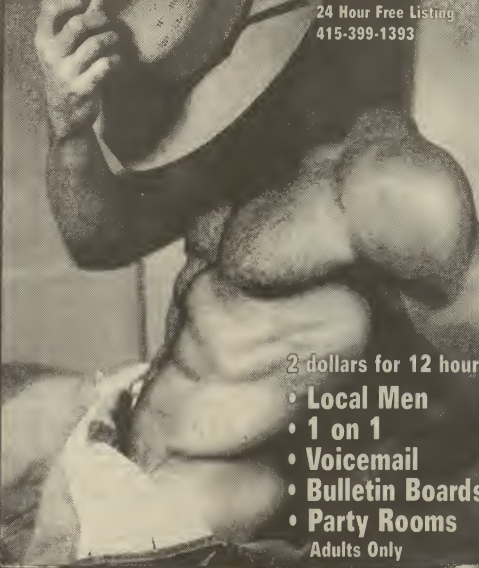
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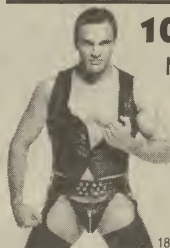
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Pgr VM 1800-577-7468x3150510  
South Bay. E18

Hot E. Bay Jock, smooth, defined, hung  
with bubblebutt. Discreet men only.  
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Verbal Top, bondage, spanking. A ball  
busting 9x7 hardcore stud. Fantasy  
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26, 6' Blnd/blue, swimmers build  
Versatile, very boylike, Cute!  
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**BI SKINHEAD TOP**  
6', 195, 30yrs. Buffed and Brutal  
Open wide and say Ahhhhh!  
Fully equipt Playroom  
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**DARK MEAT FROM STUD**  
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6'1", 180lbs, nice body 9+ thick.  
Always horny. Pg Dave/267-3305 E19

**GREEK GOD**  
6', 150lbs, Thick jet-black hair.  
Long eyelashes, defined, lean, toned  
chest, beautiful sexy yummy ass.  
Twin mounds of pleasure!  
Affectionate, passionate, exclusive  
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Muscular man 925-689-6076 E20

**DEVOTEE OF PAN SATYR FOR HIRE**  
All acts of love and pleasure are  
my rituals 24hrs In/Out 565-5561 E18

**DINO DOES IT!!**  
With his 9x7 power tool. Skilled top  
Play & fantasies. (415)-810-5611 E18

**SMOOTH HOT AND HORNY**  
23 yo 6ft, 150#, swimmers build  
for the best call Kyle.(415)376-5136 E19

**NEED A MAN IN YR BUTT**  
5'11"/Hairy 47c/16a/185/hung.  
Big hands/beard/stache 861-1671  
All buttplay scene. E18

**FRIENDLY-BLOND-HORNY  
BIG PECS. YUMMY BUTT  
HANDSOME-NEW IN TOWN**  
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**BIG TOOL**  
6', 180#, brown hair & eyes, 42c, 32w  
Very goodlooking German-Italian  
Perfect 10x6 cut tool, out only,  
Daniel.  
(415)538-9587 (707)939-6963 E18

**CUTE 24YR OLD**  
5'8", brown/brown, 140#, smooth,  
cleancut, call Chad at 241-9381 E18

Service my feet, In/Out 314-9586 E20

Handsme, smooth, masculine  
**JAPANESE-AMERI**  
Muscle Boy, 155#, 5'8", of hard  
lean muscles. 32yo. Pgr 207-6696 E18

Top stud: Athletic smooth body  
Masculine and gentle  
**UNCUT HUGE 10" TOOL**  
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**TICKLISH GUYS WANTED**  
Seeking very ticklish escorts  
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Must laugh when tickled.  
Call 928-8765 now! E21

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EXTREMELY MUSCULAR  
23YO HOT COLLEGE JOCK  
VERY WELL HUNG, SMOOTH  
SEXY, HARD, DEFINED BOD  
PAGER # 245-7930 OUT** E18

**RODEO COWBOY  
5'9", 160, BIG HOT GUN  
A HANDSOME MUSCULAR MAS-  
CULIN MAN W/STRONG LOVIN'  
ARMS & A SOFT SOUTHERN  
DRAWL WILL RIDE YOU OFF INTO  
THE SUNSET & MAKE YOUR  
COWBOY DREAMS COME TRUE.**

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510-825-1803** E18

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27yo hung cute. Outcalls only.  
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Has thick, meaty, throat plugger &  
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Clint-313-2531. 26yr, 6', very sexy  
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Athletic guy likes it deep & hard  
8" uncut, good oral, in/out 314-9586 E20

**CAL WATER POLO STUD**  
Dive in! 5'9", 150#, 8" cut. 793-7312 E18

**TAKE IT AND LIKE IT**  
From a very goodlooking young  
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1/2His, 1/2Chi. Great head, sweet lay  
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**6'3", 200# TOP XTRA4ASS**  
Blnd. 81/4, let's work&sweat&pant  
like 2-men can. Out/\$100till your dry  
V.M- R-#SPGR303-0842\*99Jay E19

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CLASSIC BEAUTY**  
Long Lt. Brn. Hr. 6', 155#, 23yo/o.  
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**22YO MEX/FRENCH**  
9", Goodlooking, toned.  
Julio 708-0533 E18

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Hot 22yo Mex/Italian 9", uncut  
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Avail. for WS/FF/Greek/cuddle scenes  
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South Bay E21

Kicks back for service\*24 Hours  
**10X6" UNCUT**  
Big fat tool 487-9566 Pgr 678-1005 E18

26yo Xtra handsome, Latino top!  
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46YO 6'3 MUSCULAR 205 LBS  
MAGNIFICENT 10.5X7.5 TOOL  
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5'7", innocent boyish looks  
masculine, smooth skin, clean  
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS  
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS  
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28yo 5'7", 140#. Tom415-412-7261  
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members.tripod.com/~AsianMaster

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Cute 20 year old WM  
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21 yr old boy, swimmer's build chis-  
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Beautiful yummy ass! 150lbs. Black  
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Black, rock hard, solid, built to  
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Smooth Pico. Out only sexy, fun  
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6', 150, Dk hr., Bl\*764-0773 \*\$120  
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IN-OUT \$85-\$95

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Tall dark & handsome w/an edge  
well hung, vers. easy going.

**XAVIER**  
Blond swimmers build  
19 smooth  
Pgr# 281-3128

**19YO BLOND  
TRUE 10" UNCUT**  
5'10", 150#, Blue eyes, boyish, lean  
Gym toned swimmers build, smooth  
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Page Mark on  
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6ft 150lbs olive complexion.  
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**CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR**  
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Top 26 y/o Latino stud, well built  
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Top/Bottom muscle boy-fun & hot!

**ALL AMERICAN MALE**  
Masculine, Handsome, Hairy, Hung  
6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly  
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Clean-cut Muscle Hunk  
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs  
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\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

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passionate regular guy 8XX thick.  
Very hard inches for your pleasure.  
Call David 902-3841

Italian stud, black hair brn eyes  
6ft, swimmer's build, defined chest &  
legs, bedroom eyes, beautiful ass,  
8" uncult. Outcalls Pref/hotels. Gino  
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**HANDSOME HUNK**  
Clean cut 6'3" 185# blond/blu  
hairy well equipped and great balls  
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Cute guy 5'5, 135#, Nice chest &  
Arms, hung, smooth, bottom, older  
men welcome \$50 Donald 351-2034

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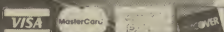
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MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Bld/Blu  
Clean-cut Muscle Hunk  
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs  
**ASIAN TOP**  
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passionate regular guy 8XX thick.  
Very hard inches for your pleasure.  
Call David 902-3841

Italian stud, black hair brn eyes  
6ft, swimmer's build, defined chest &  
legs, bedroom eyes, beautiful ass,  
8" uncut. Outcalls Pref/hotels. Gino  
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Clean cut 6'3" 185# blond/blu  
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Cute guy 5'5, 135#, Nice chest  
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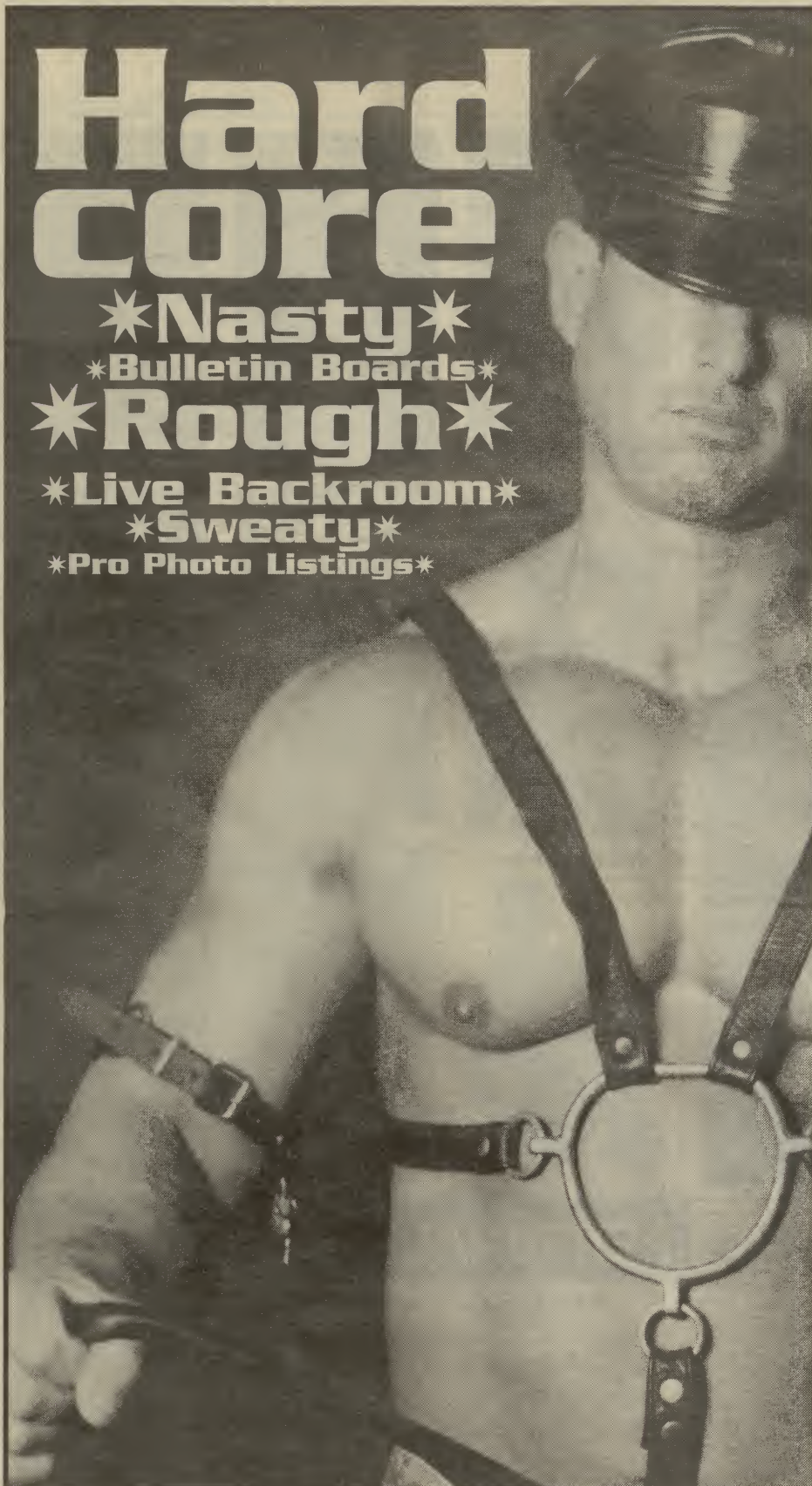
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